Proud To Present
MANGA
BRING ME JOCKEY MAMA
and
Gantz_Waitingroom
MANGA (1-7)
translator: rahime ☆ wadgumfio ☆ yukihito
proofreader: Yuka ☆ otomegameko ☆ ninja
cleaner: otomegameko
typesetter: otomegameko ☆ wynita ☆ ninja
quality checker: otomegameko
GWR (8-11)
translator: Hex
cleaner: ReviLenigma
typesetter: marker

I need my daily dose of manga!
I want them!
And I want them fast!
I can't believe this!
This is really depressing!
WELL, IT'S BECAUSE WE LACK THE STAFF! LEECHERS ARE FINE, BUT WE ALSO NEED HELP! BADLY!
Why are my new chapters coming out slow..?
BECAUSE...
Because...?

http://twomango.wordpress.com
http://so.invisionfree.com/mango_scans
mangoscans@ymail.com

坂口 尚作品集2

ともしび

ACTION COMICS

ACTION COMICS

ACTION COMICS

ともしび

作品集2

坂口尚

坂口 尚

双葉社

雑誌 50122—19

定価680円

Sakaguchi Hisashi
Born 1946 at Tokyo Starts getting interested in animation in 1963, and in 1969 starts making manga Right now, he is working full time on creating manga Some of his works are "12 Color Story" (2 Volumes), "Flower of Stone" (6 volumes), both published by Ushio Publisher

ACTION COMICS

坂口 尚作品集2

ともしび

坂口 尚

ACTION COMICS ともしび 坂口 尚作品集2 坂口 尚

双葉社

ACTION COMICS

Story Collections 2

Tomoshibi

Sakaguchi Hisashi

Futabasha

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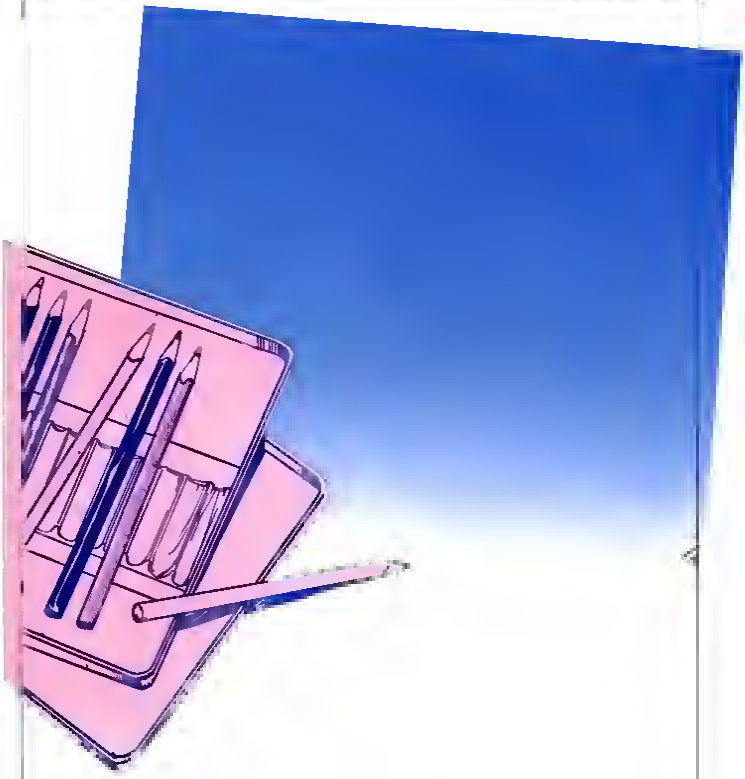
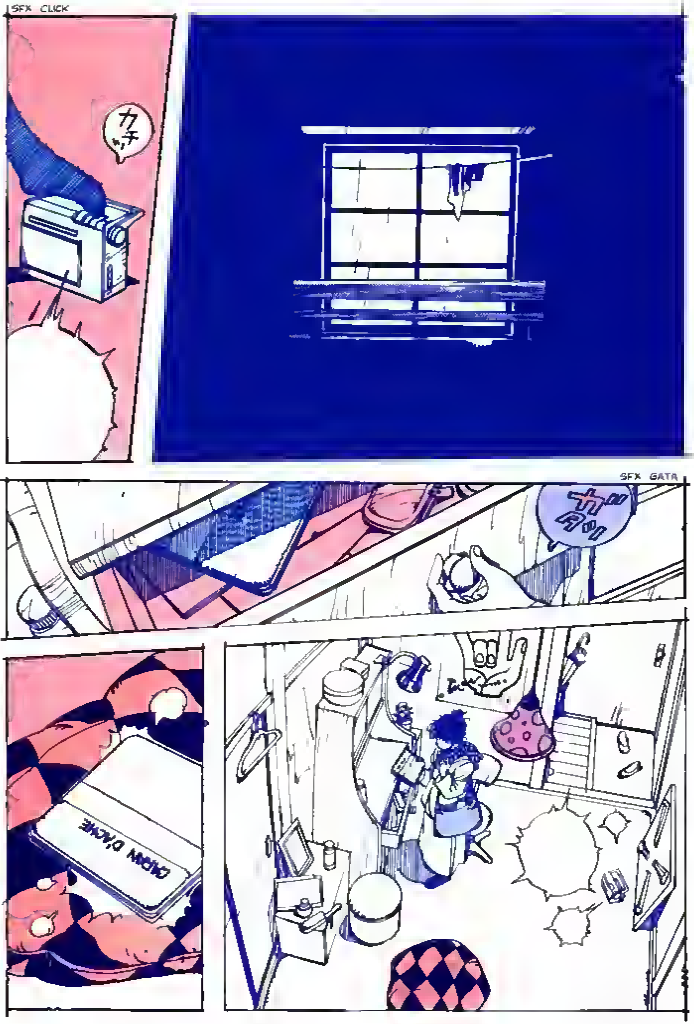
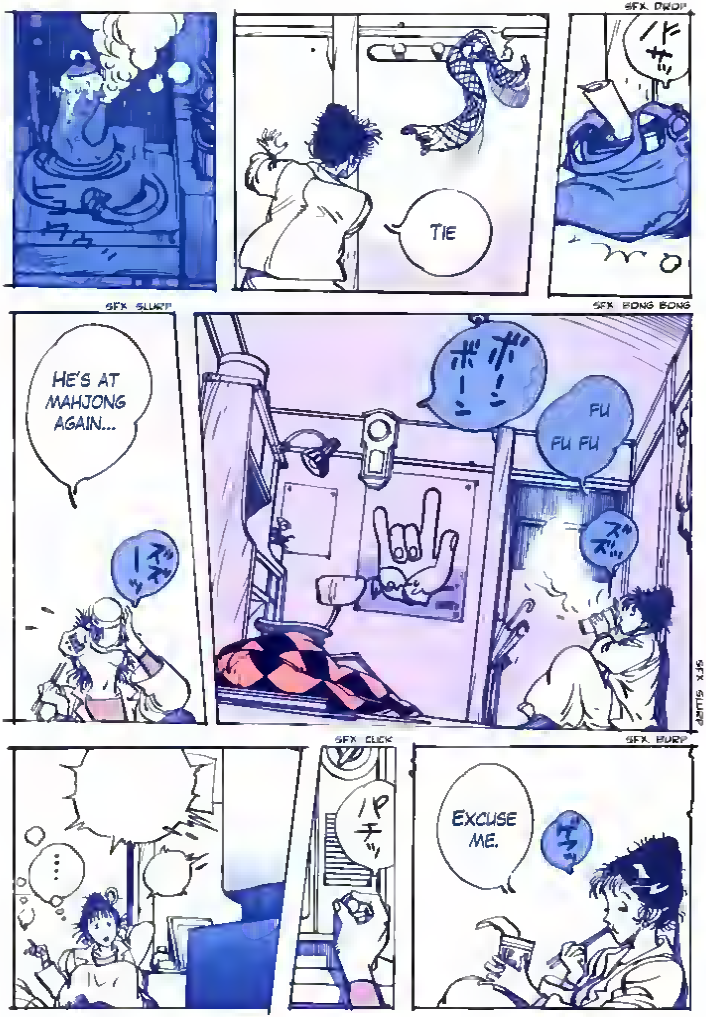
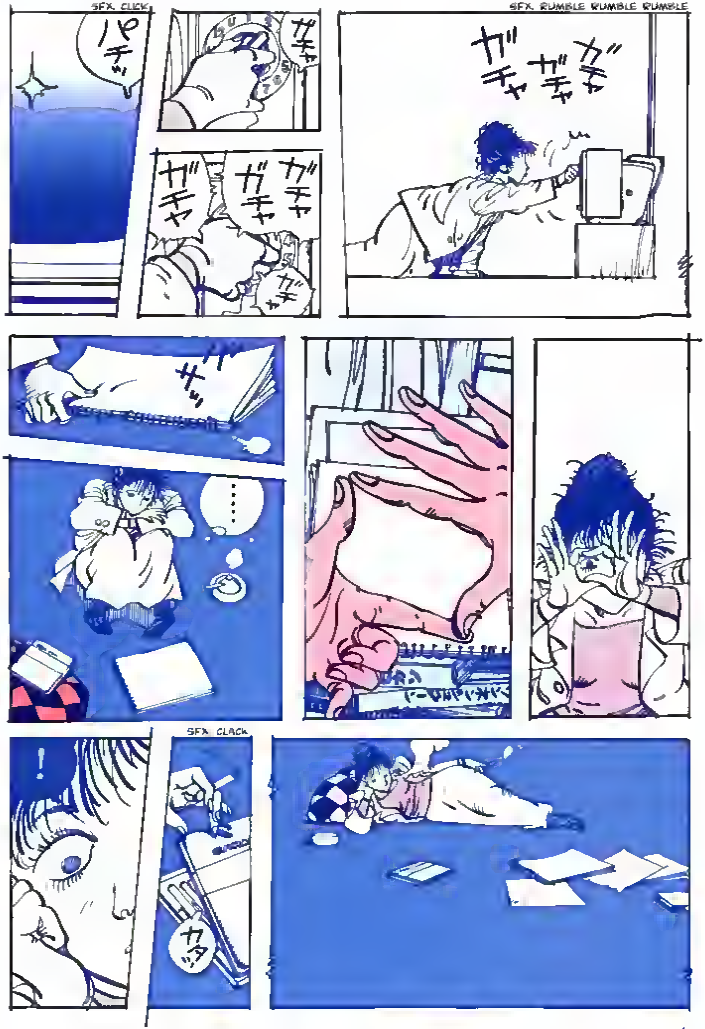
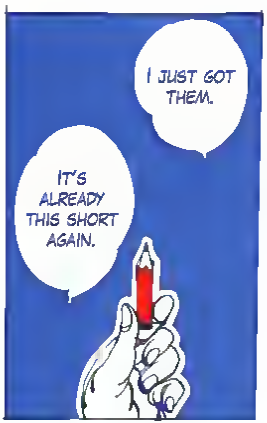


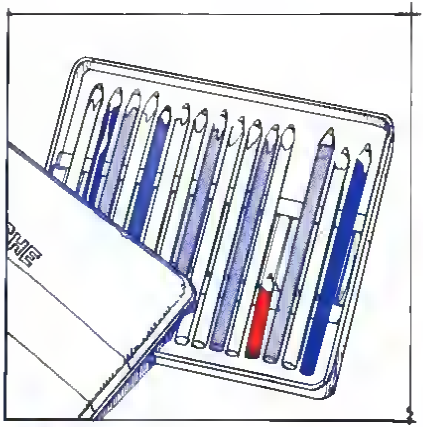
Colored Pencils

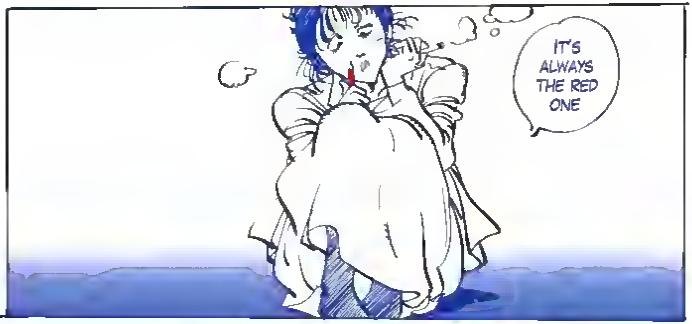

SFX CLICK
カチ
SFX GATA
ガタ
DAIKIN DAIKIN


SFX. DROP
TIE
SFX. BONG BONG
FU FU FU
SFX. SLURP
HE'S AT MAHJONG AGAIN...
SFX. CLICK
SFX. BURP
EXCUSE ME.

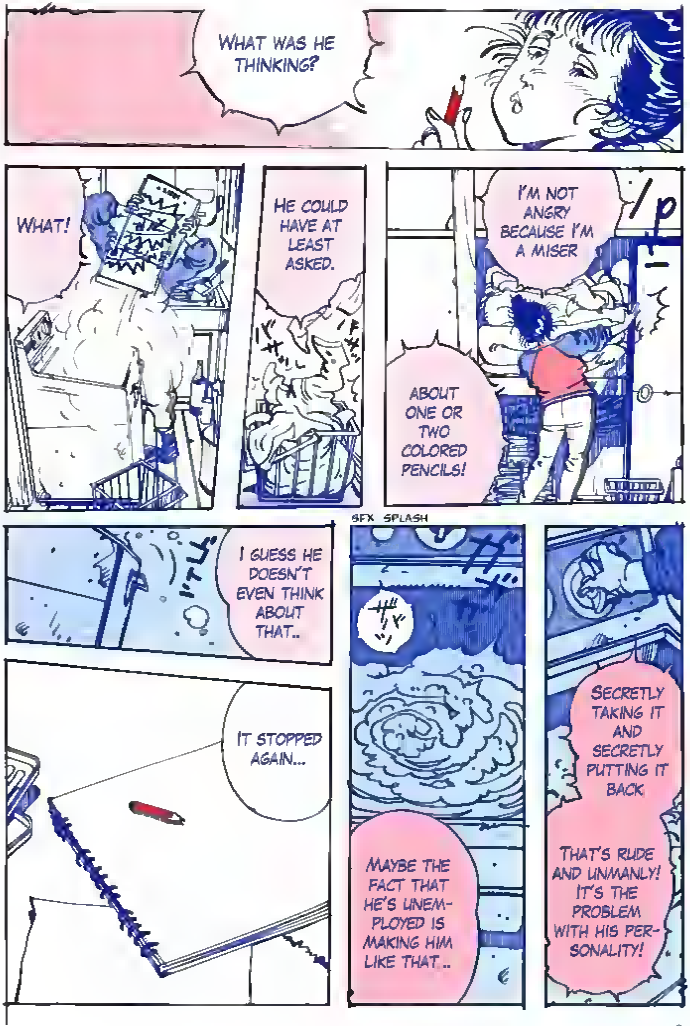

SFX. CLICK
パチッ
ガチャ
ガチャ
ガチャ
ガチャ
ガチャ
SFX. RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE
ガチャ
ガチャ
ガチャ
サッ
……
SFX. CLACK
!
カタッ

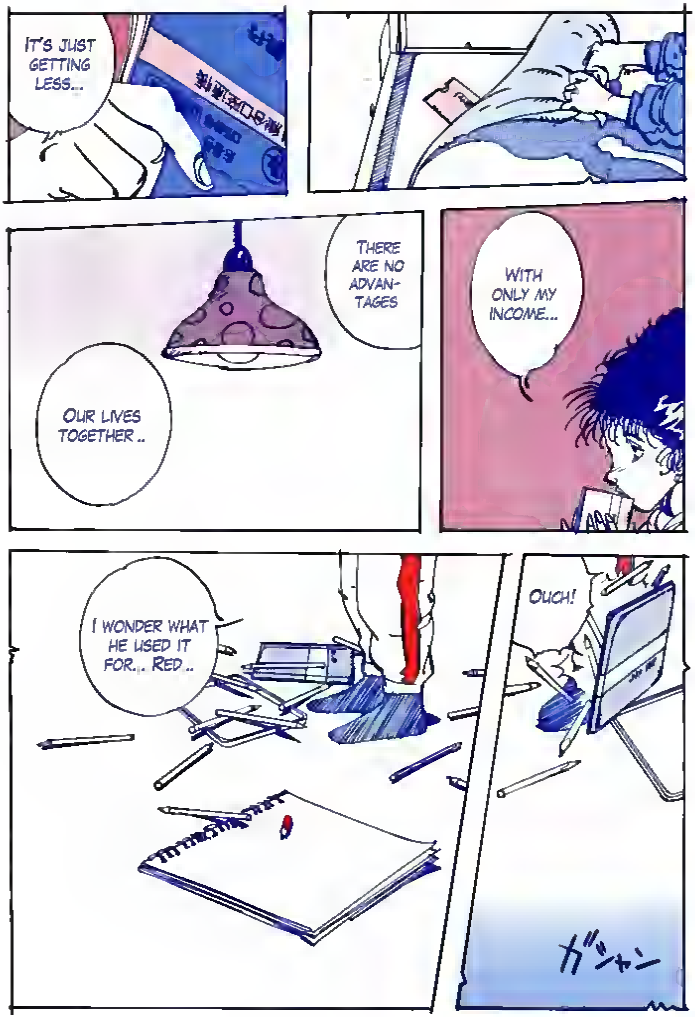

I JUST GOT THEM.
IT'S ALREADY THIS SHORT AGAIN.

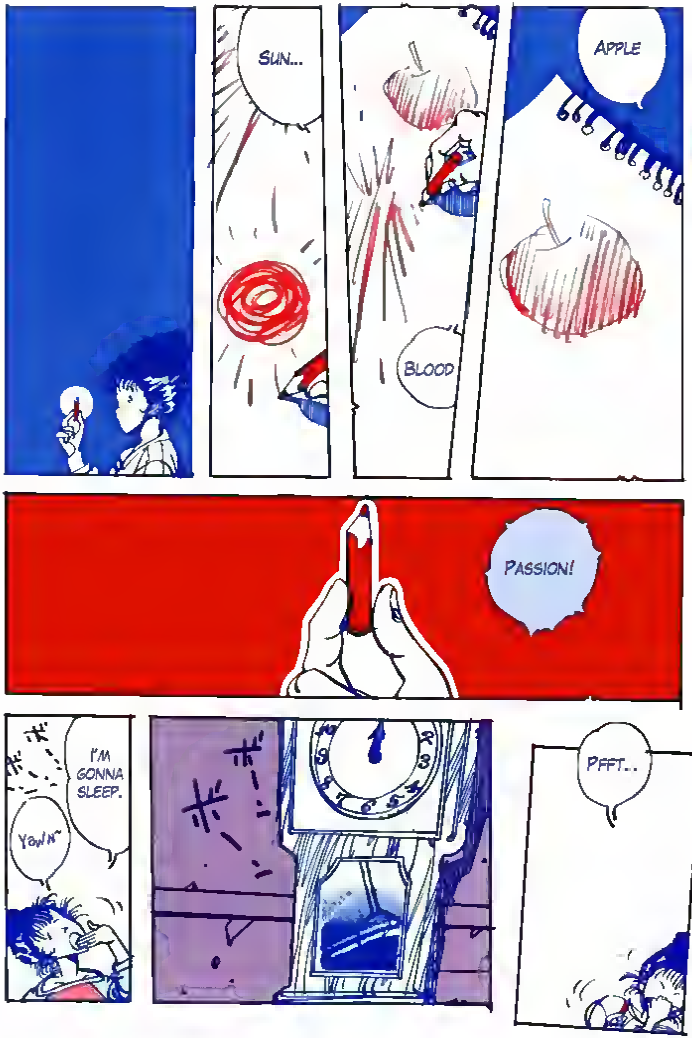



IT'S ALWAYS THE RED ONE

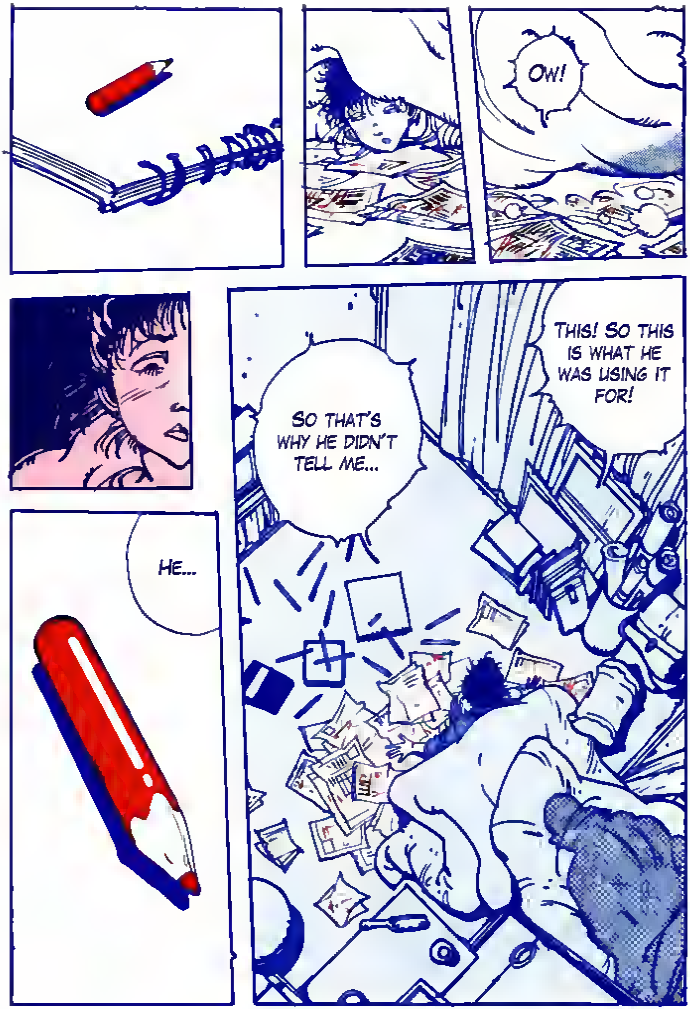
IT HAS TO BE HIM.
HMPH, ALWAYS TAKING THINGS WITHOUT ASKING!

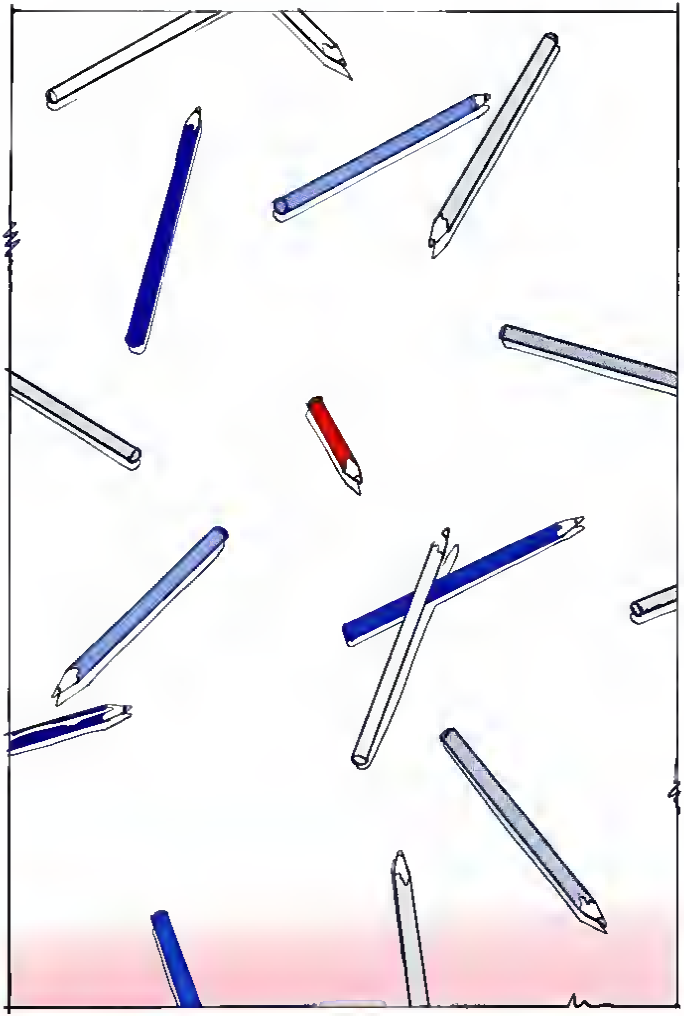

WHAT WAS HE THINKING?
WHAT!
HE COULD HAVE AT LEAST ASKED.
I'M NOT ANGRY BECAUSE I'M A MISER
ABOUT ONE OR TWO COLORED PENCILS!
SFX: SPLASH
I GUESS HE DOESN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT THAT..
IT STOPPED AGAIN...
MAYBE THE FACT THAT HE'S UNEMPLOYED IS MAKING HIM LIKE THAT..
SECRETLY TAKING IT AND SECRETLY PUTTING IT BACK
THAT'S RUDE AND UNMANLY! IT'S THE PROBLEM WITH HIS PERSONALITY!

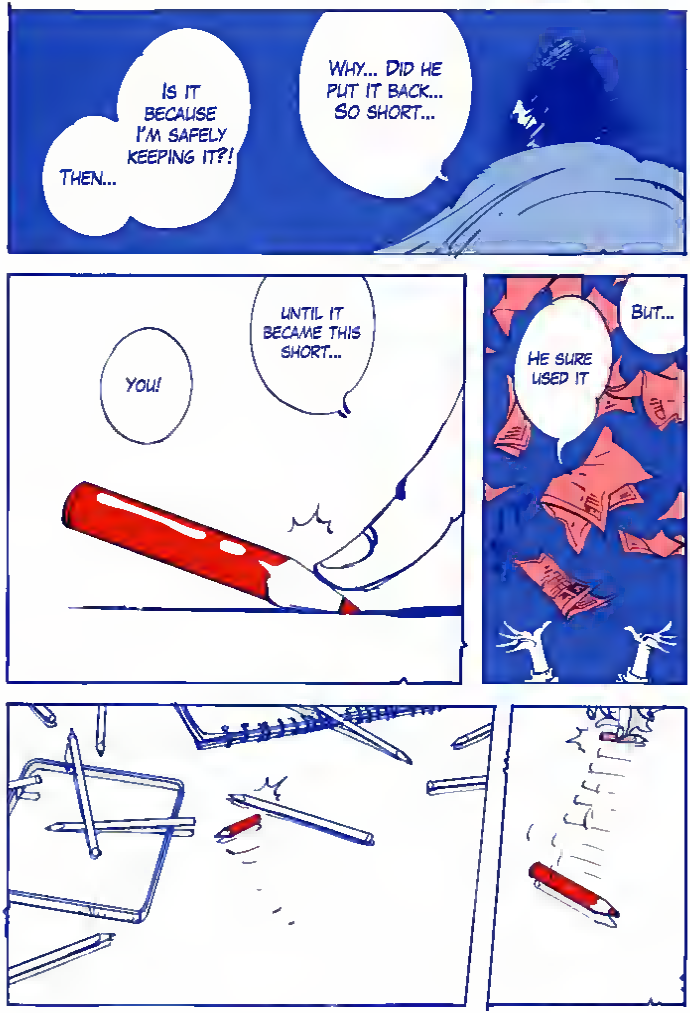

IT'S JUST GETTING LESS...
THERE ARE NO ADVAN-TAGES
OUR LIVES TOGETHER..
WITH ONLY MY INCOME...
I WONDER WHAT HE USED IT FOR.. RED..
OUCH!
ガシャン


SUN...
APPLE
BLOOD
PASSION!
I'M GONNA SLEEP.
YAWN
PFFT...

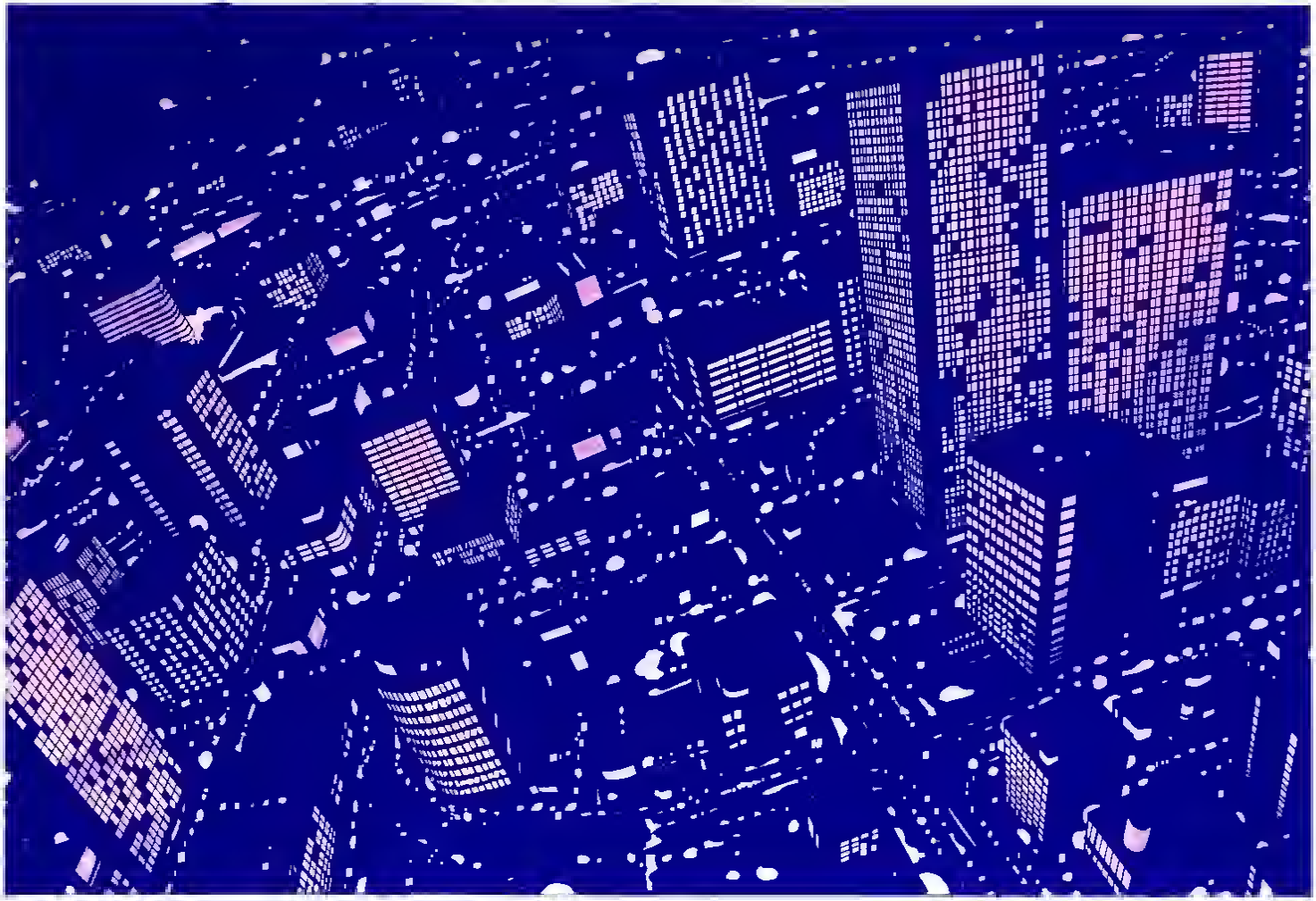
SFX. FLUTTER
SFX. CLUNK
I HAVE TWO PART TIME JOBS, IT'S OVER WORKING!
THAT GUY!

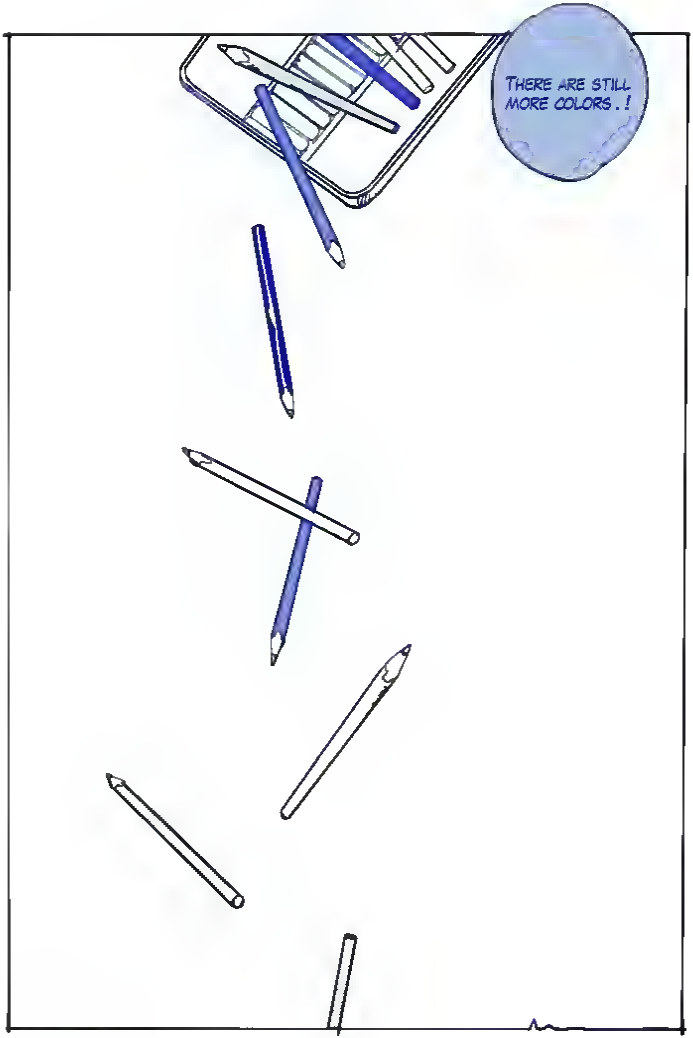

OW!
HE...
SO THAT'S WHY HE DIDN'T TELL ME...
THIS! SO THIS IS WHAT HE WAS USING IT FOR!




Why... Did he put it back... So short...
Is it because I'm safely keeping it?!
Then...
Until it became this short...
You!
But...
He sure used it

I WONDER
WHAT'S MY COLOR.
I'LL DRAW!
I STILL CAN'T SLEEP...!



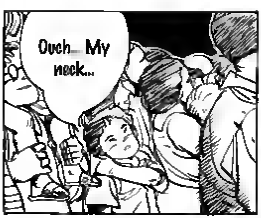


色えんぴつ■完

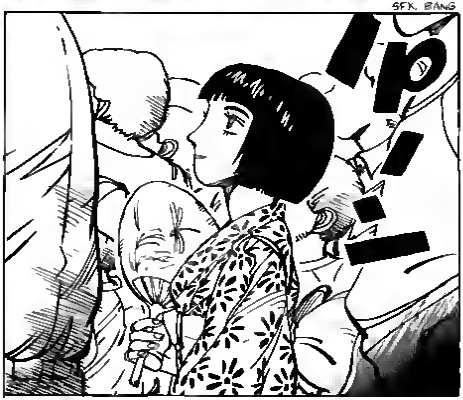
FIREWORKS

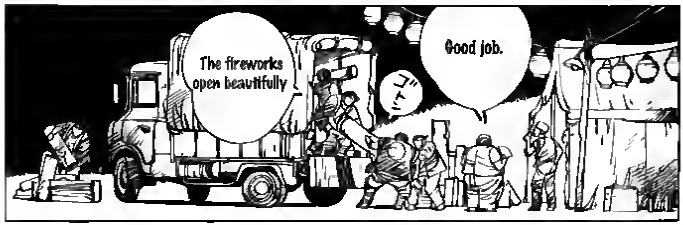
ドドド

The fireworks that once bloomed gently in the big sky had ended. The bits of light that scattered everywhere disappeared into the dark night.
It was a star —
Hmm? There's one bit of light that didn't quite disappear.
SEE ... HATTER CHATTER?
The boy was thinking about what he saw earlier.
ガヤ ガヤ
The people had already started to go back to their own houses.
The boy stared at it blankly.

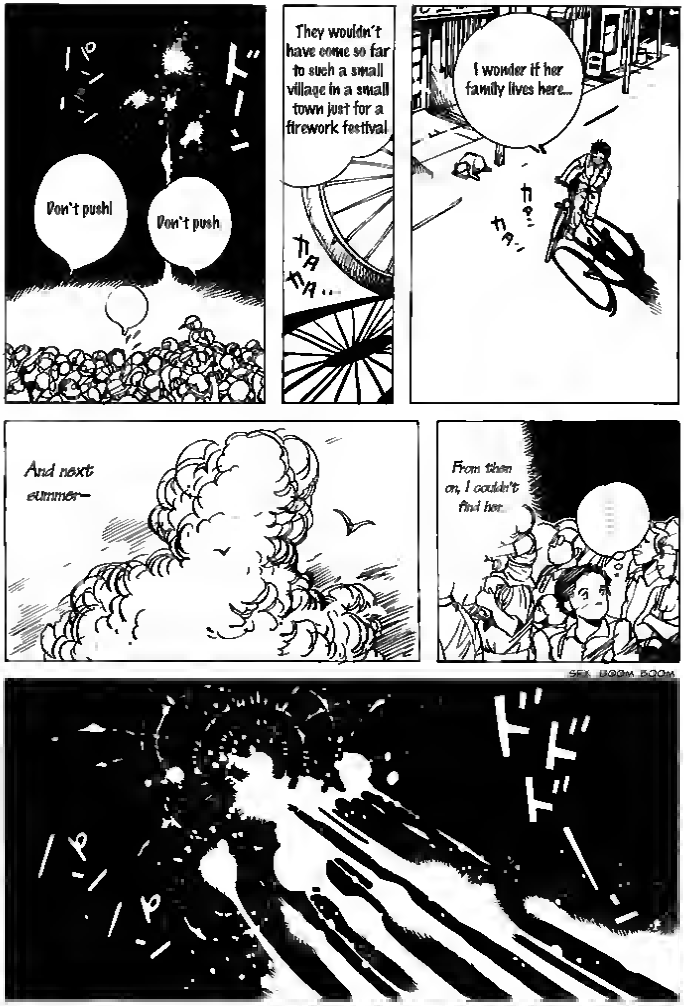


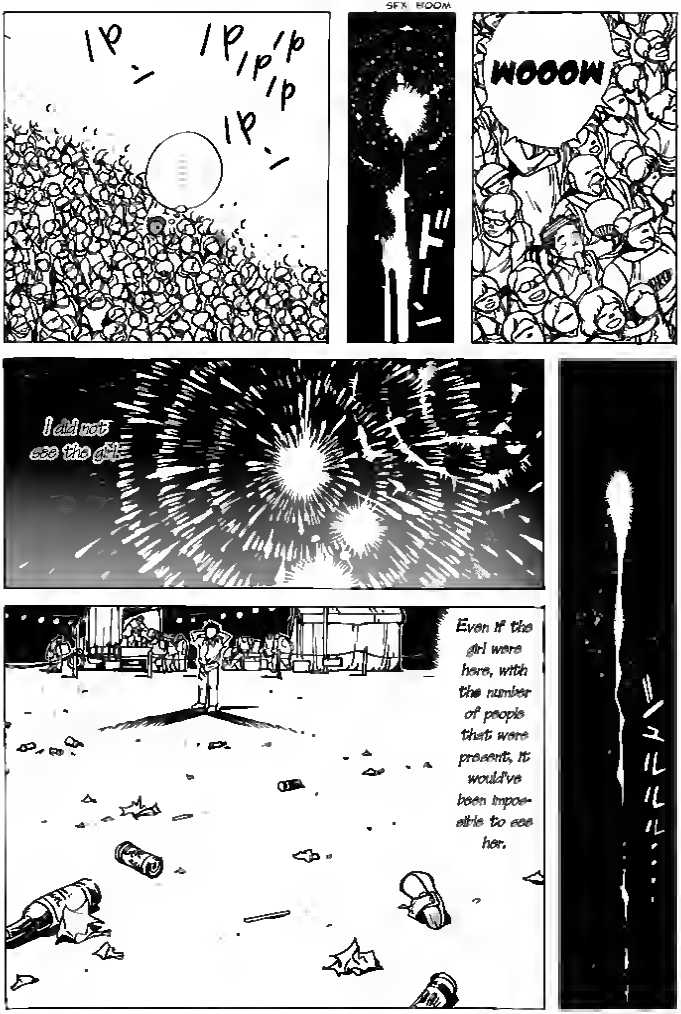
The girl's face that appeared for a moment in the blue light was as transparent as the marble stone I saw when my cousin took me to an art museum.

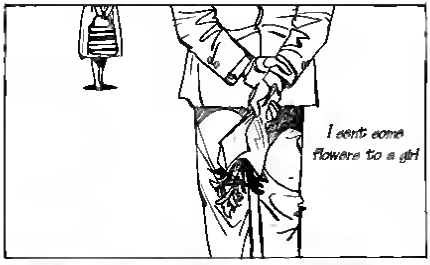




Summer is almost over.
SFX. DROP
SFX. HAHAHA
SFX. GIGLE GIGGLE
Okay, let's go to the other side to get to Neon Town.
SFX. KICK
SFX. FLIP
I wonder where she came from...


ドーン
パーン
Don't push!
Don't push
They wouldn't have come so far to such a small village in a small town just for a firework festival
カタカタ...
I wonder if her family lives here...
カラ...
カラ...
And next summer—
From then on, I couldn't find her.
SEX BOOM BOOM
ドドド
パーン
パーン

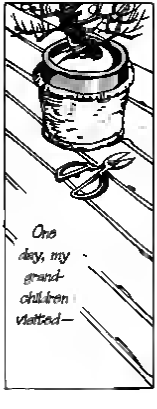

SFX: HOOM
WOOOW
I did not see the girl.
Even if the girl were here, with the number of people that were present, it would've been impossible to see her.

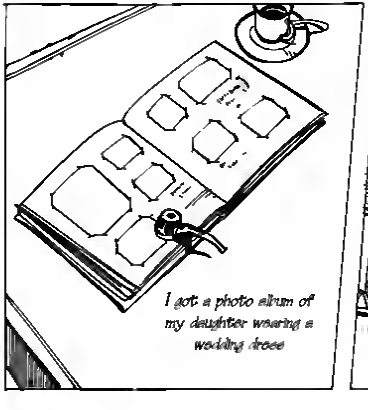

I sent some flowers to a girl

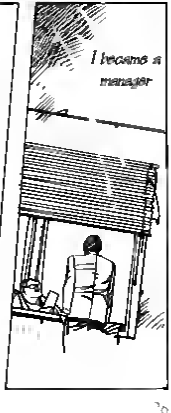
And time flew by...

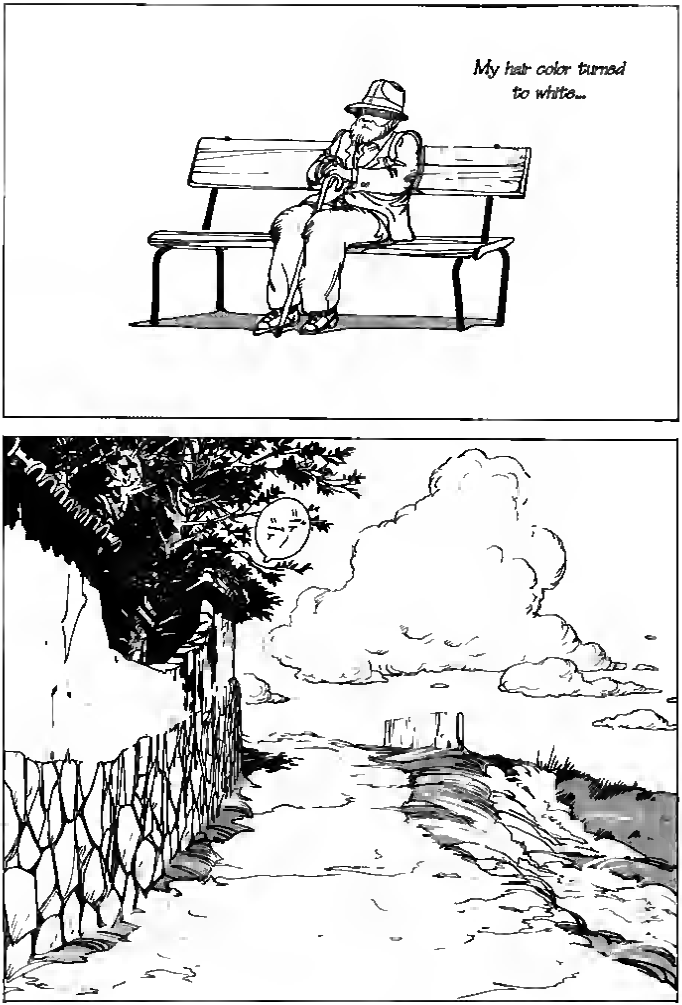
Our pet dog died

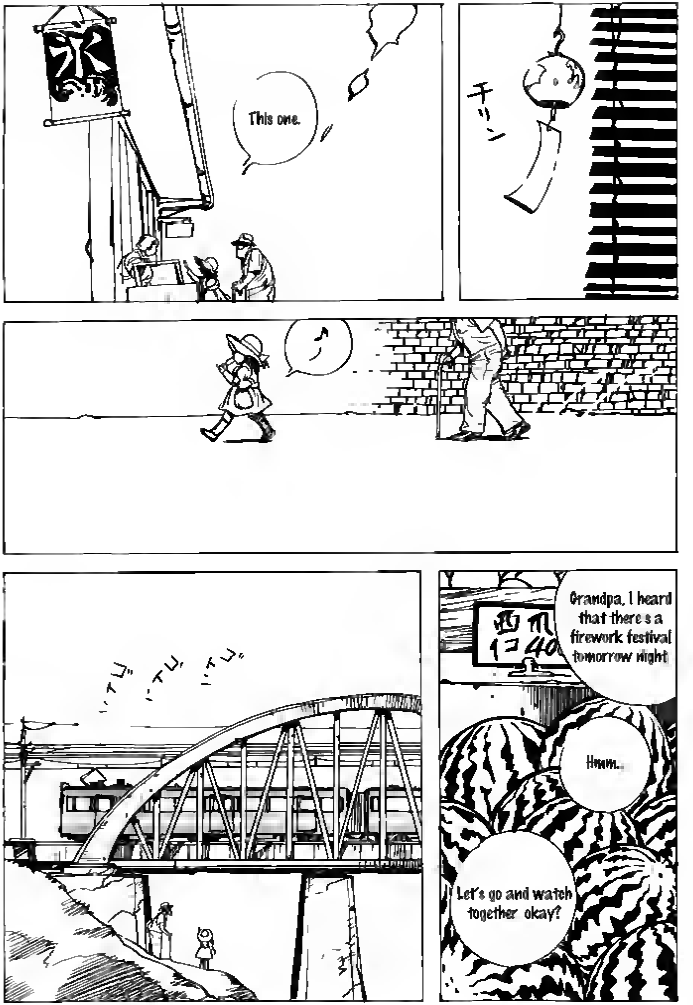
I held a child


One day, my grand-children visited—


I got a photo album of my daughter wearing a wedding dress

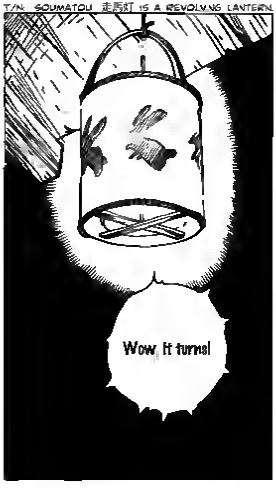

I became a manager


My hair color turned to white...


This one.
チリン
♪
Grandpa, I heard that there's a firework festival tomorrow night
Hmm..
Let's go and watch together okay?

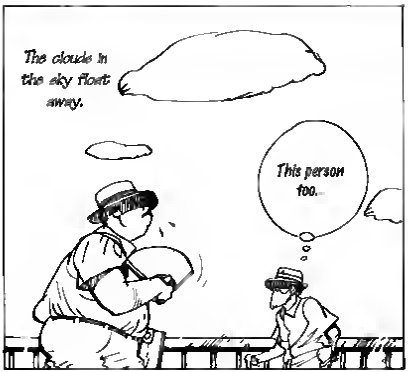
When I take a picture without the camera shutters, nothing that's moving looks like a little scene, I thought.
There were no more children on the school grounds.

T/N: SOUMATOU 走馬灯 IS A REVOLVING LANTERN.

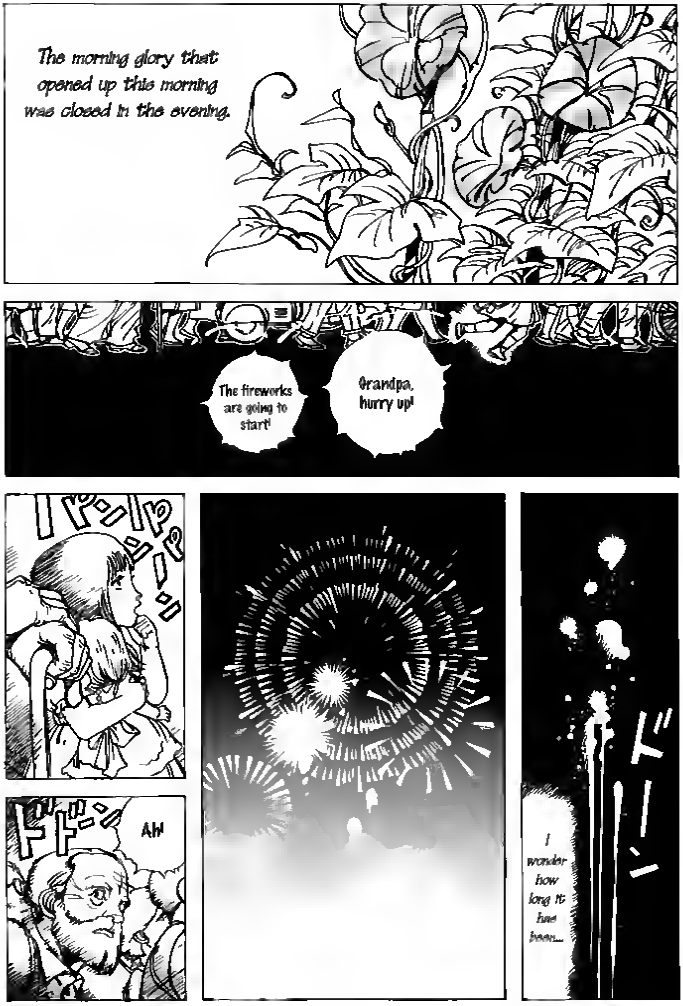


It looks a little different now because they fixed it, but it's still the same as back then...
I haven't come back here since I graduated.

The many people that I've seen during my travels are right around the corner...


The clouds in the sky float away.
This person too.

I'll probably never see that person again...
I always thought


The morning glory that opened up this morning was closed in the evening.
The fireworks are going to start!
Grandpa, hurry up!
ドーン
I wonder how long it has been...
ドドーン
Ah!

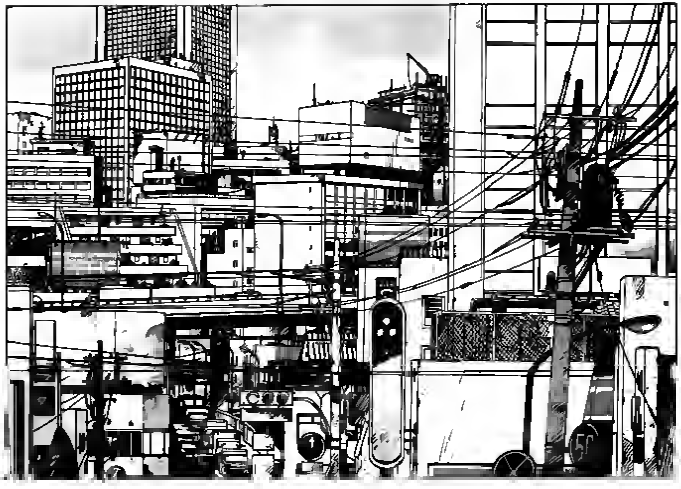
パン
Umm, excuse me...
ドン
Where are you going, grandpa.
It was the girl.
ピピピピピピピピ
パパパパ
ピピピピ
パパパパ
Grandma, look!
ピチ

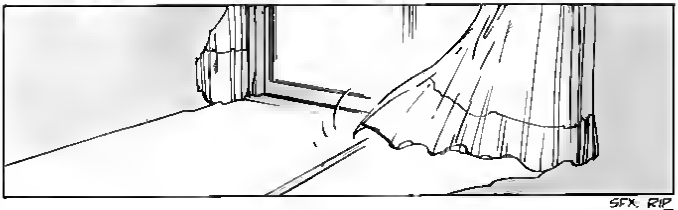
イヤ
But that smiling face when she saw the fireworks...
People's faces change with time,
I'm sleepy!
Grandpa, let's go home!
It's the same, but...
What's the same?
It's the same.

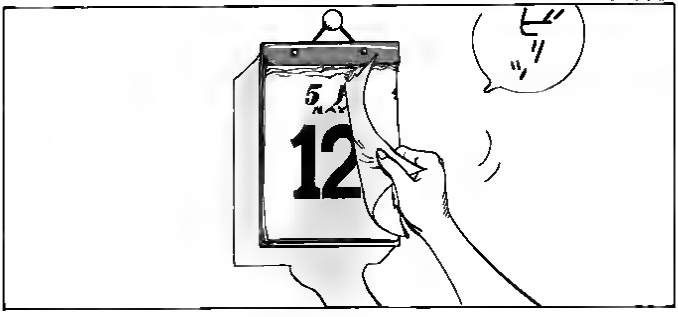
The fireworks had ended.
The stars were shining as bright as last night's. Summer was about to end on the face of the earth —

花火■完

Marigold (Not Knowing Time)




SFX. RIP

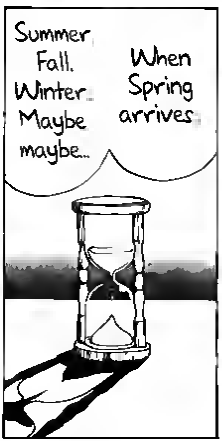

MAY
12

SFX CLANK CLANK
カチャ
カチャ
Today. I will be able to meet him maybe.
This is it. I will leave.
カチャ
It was really long.

I'm tired of waiting...
But today...

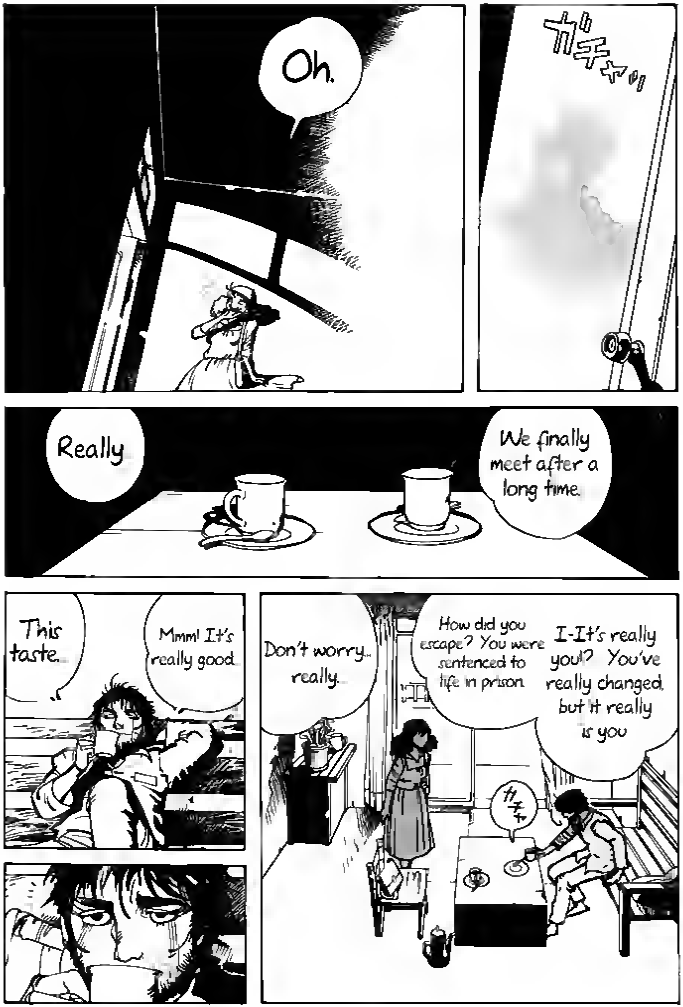
Every time I think about that I shiver
For me it had just been a waste of time waiting...

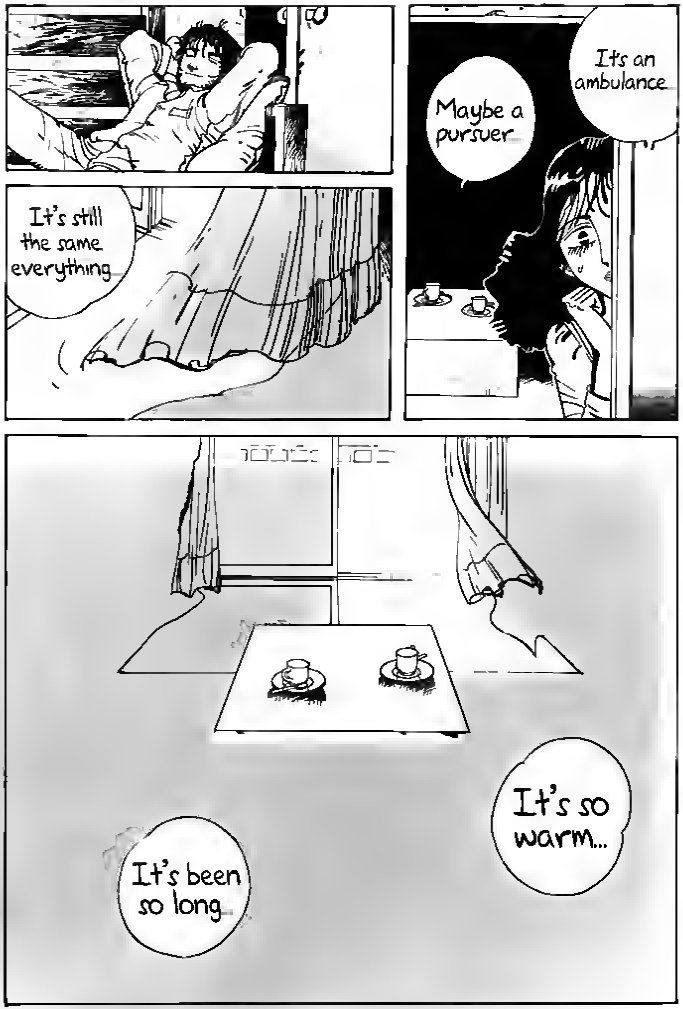
They were trying to make a new world

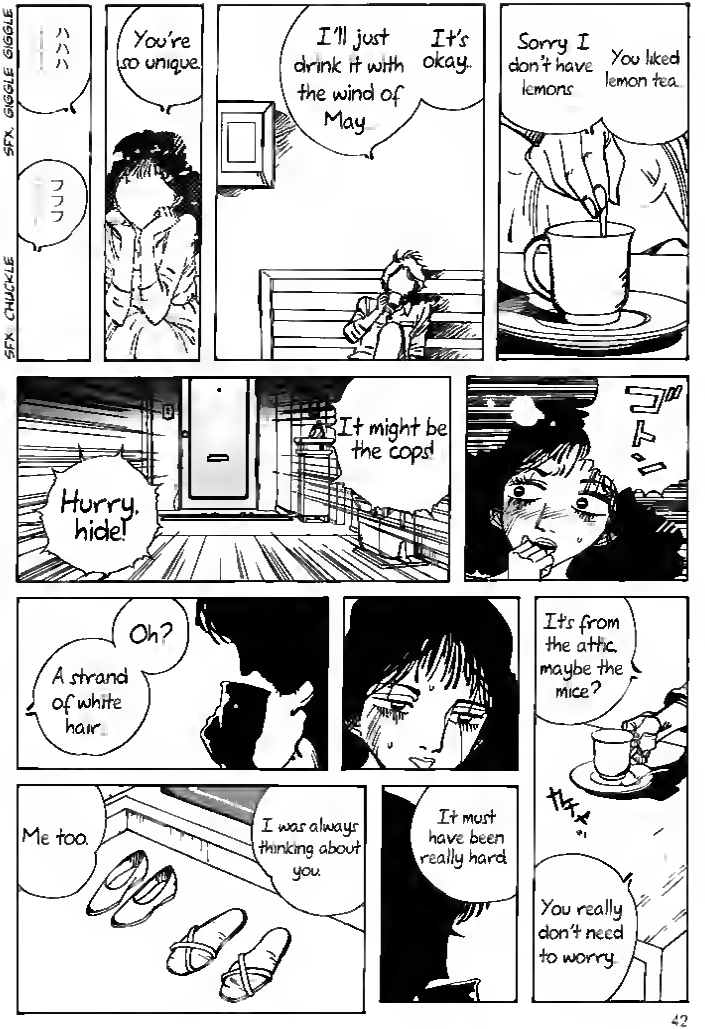

Summer Fall. Winter Maybe maybe...
When Spring arrives

How did I ever survive this long?
Depending on people it would be because of the seasons

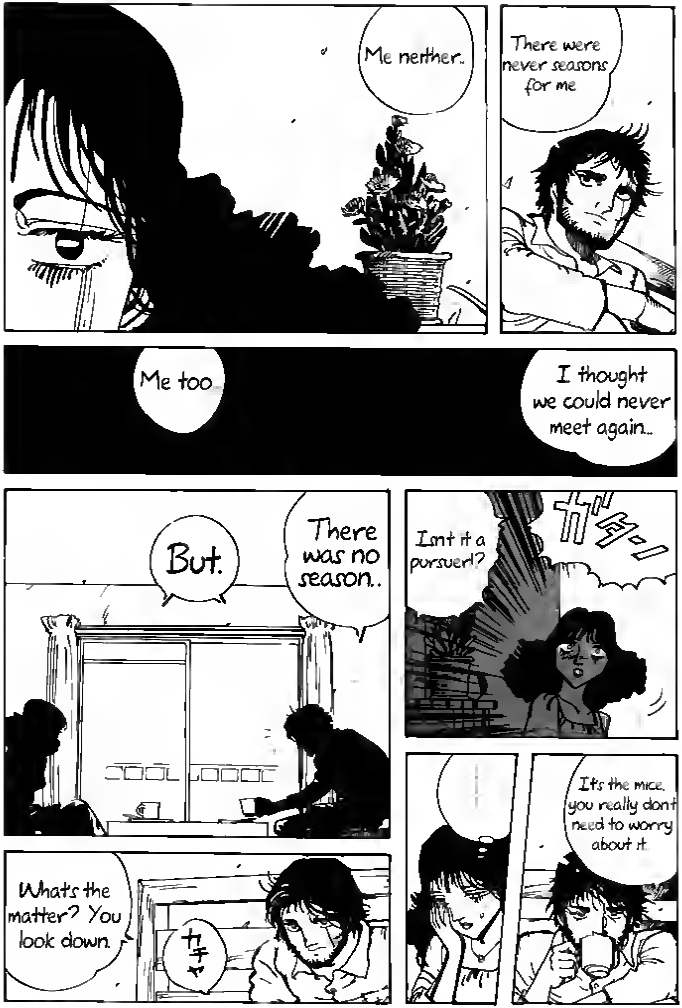
But I should stop doing this kind of thing
By being busy with this and that, I could've just forgotten what I was waiting for...
I never thought
That this day would come.
What a wonderful day.
SFX: CLICK

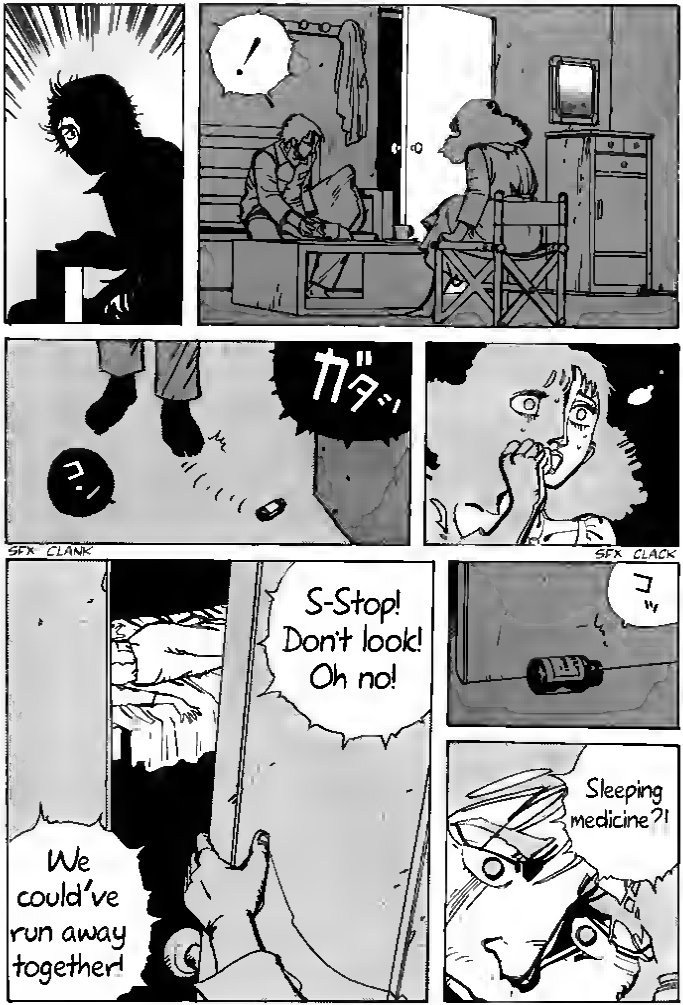

Oh.
カチャ
Really
We finally meet after a long time.
This taste.
Mmm! It's really good.
Don't worry.. really.
How did you escape? You were sentenced to life in prison.
I-It's really you!? You've really changed, but it really is you
カチャ


It's still the same everything
Maybe a pursuer
It's an ambulance
It's been so long
It's so warm...


SFX. CHUCKLE
SFX. GIGGLE GIGGLE
フフフ
ハハハ
You're so unique.
I'll just drink it with the wind of May.
It's okay.
Sorry I don't have lemons.
You liked lemon tea.
Hurry, hide!
It might be the cops!
ゴトン
Oh?
A strand of white hair.
It's from the attic, maybe the mice?
*1
Me too.
I was always thinking about you.
It must have been really hard.
You really don't need to worry.

No... To go
See you.
Shopping?
Yeah but I'm glad I was just about to go out.
I've decided.
that's why...
I'm not allowed to meet anyone outside
Hmm... That's not possible.
It sure is spring...
..because of this spring breeze...
Probably


Me neither.
There were never seasons for me
Me too
I thought we could never meet again..
But.
There was no season..
Isn't it a pursuer!?
ガタ-!
Whats the matter? You look down
カキャ
Its the mice. you really don't need to worry about it


!
ガタッ
コ…
SFX CLANK
SFX CLACK
コ
S-Stop! Don't look! Oh no!
We could've run away together!
Sleeping medicine?!

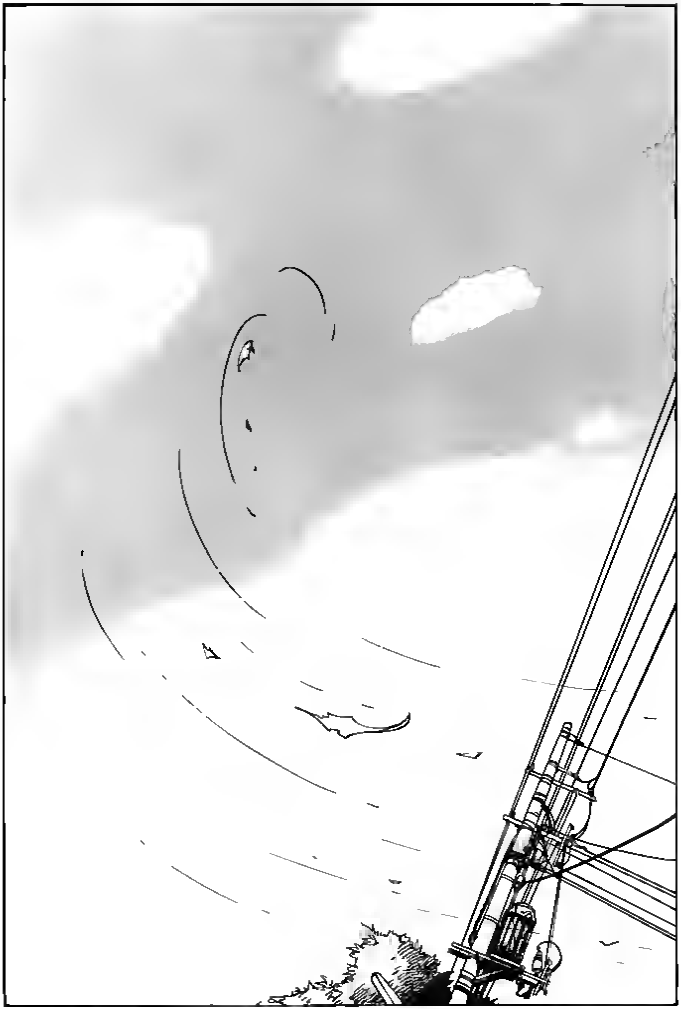
ROOM 304...
ROOM 303.
ROOM NUMBER 302! TIME FOR DINNER!

SFX: PEEEP!

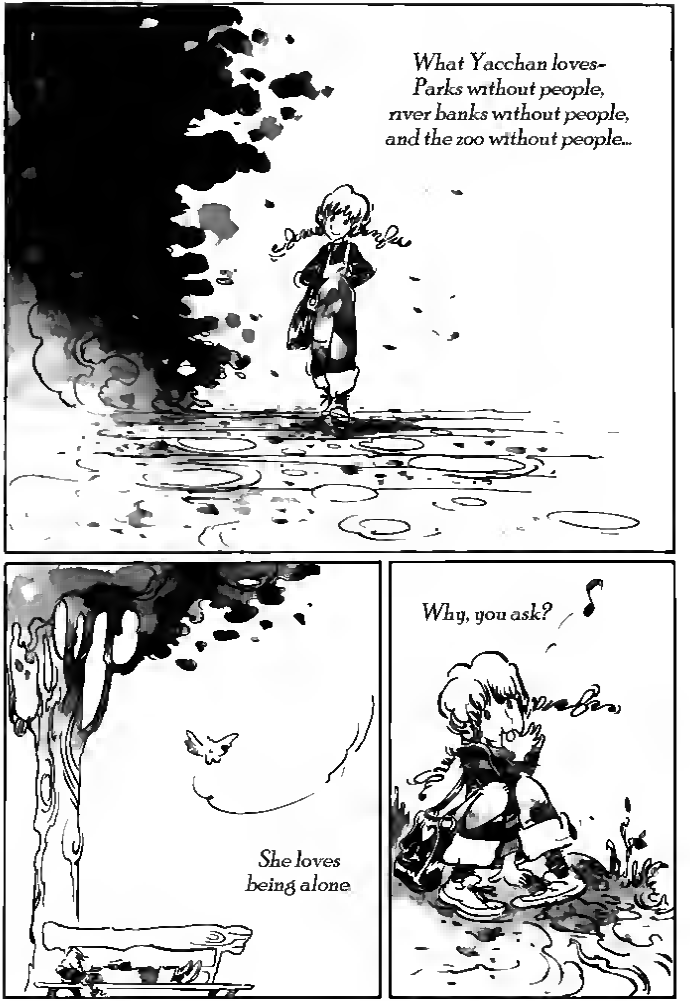
OH!

HMM?
ROOM 305!

Wow! So cool!
Hmph!
You just laughed,
didn't you?
!?

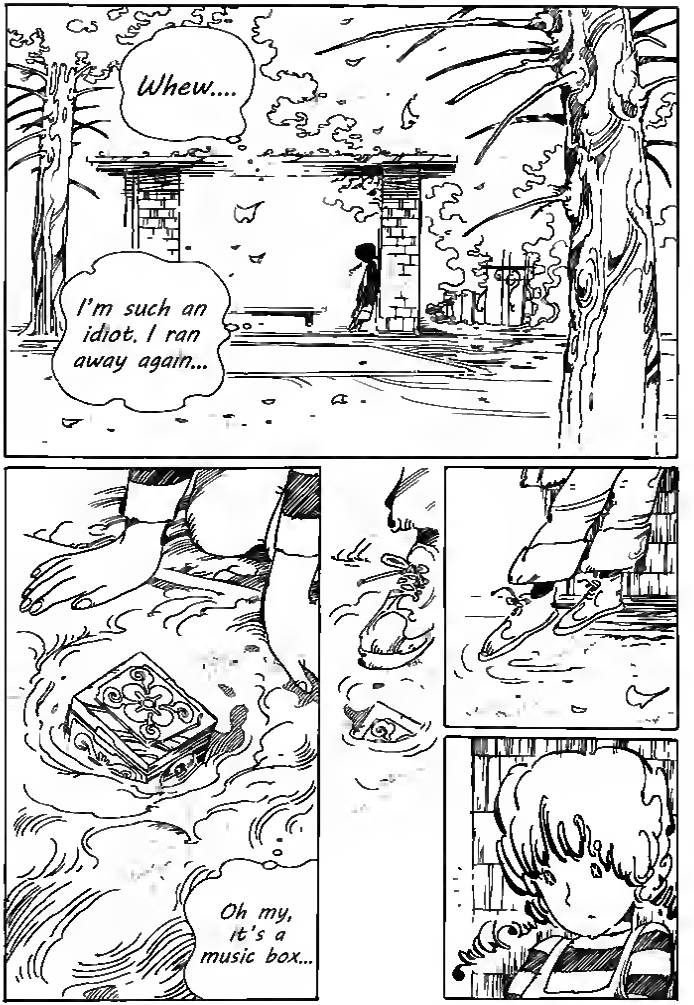


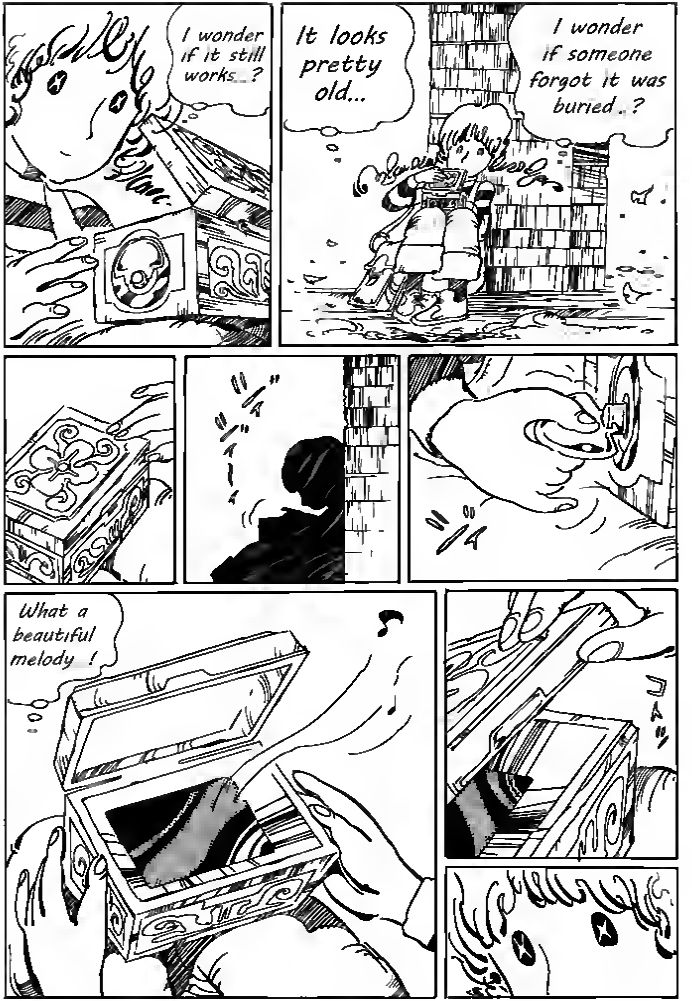
Musical
Bbbbooooox

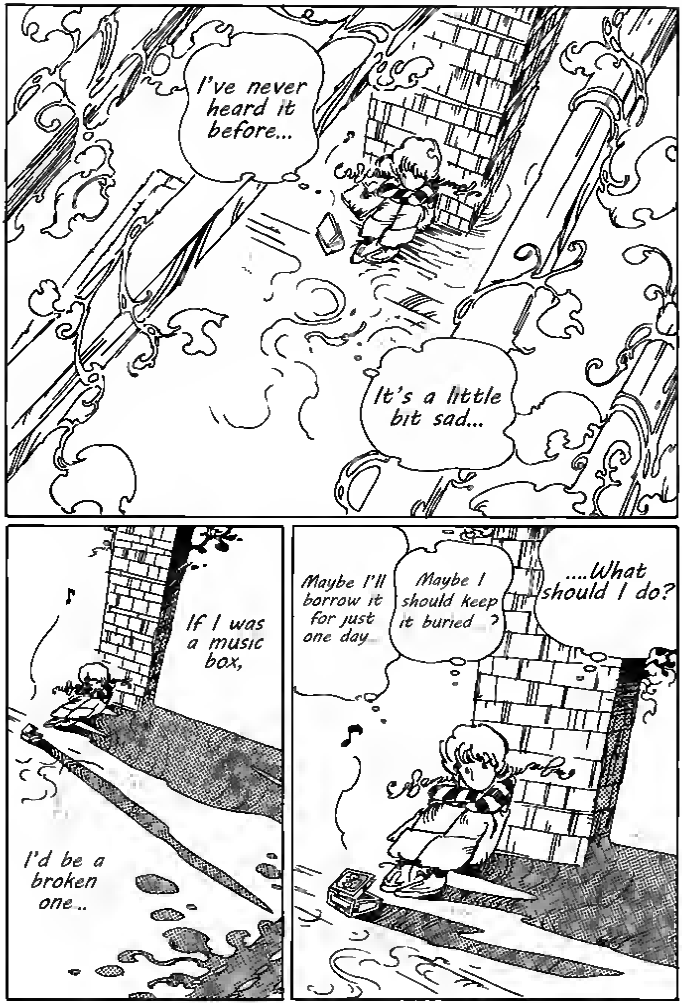

What Yacchan loves-
Parks without people,
river banks without people,
and the zoo without people...
She loves
being alone
Why, you ask?

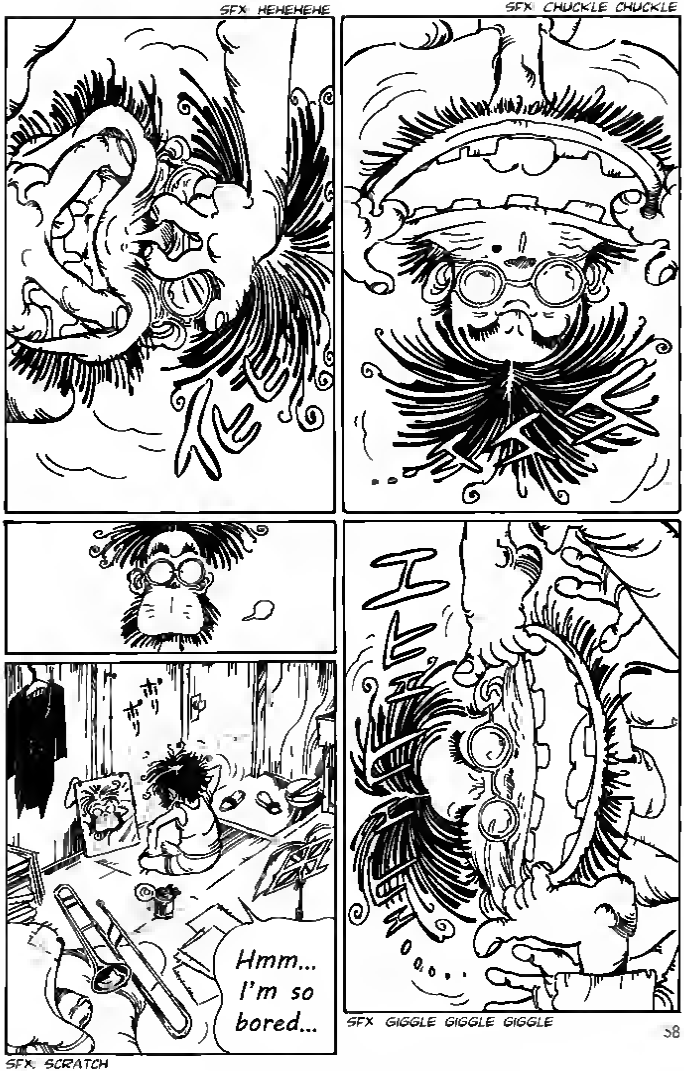
But when someone appears, and asks her for directions, Yacchan will...
Yes?
I, I...
Yesss.
I...
Umm...?
I.....
What?
I...

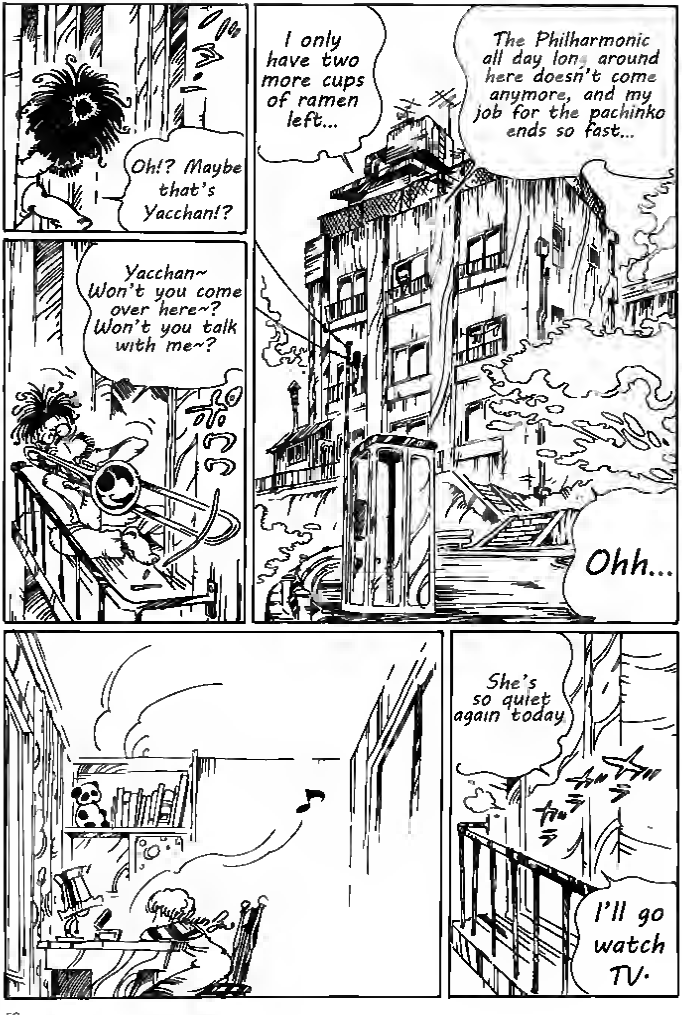
TEXT RUNS OFF...

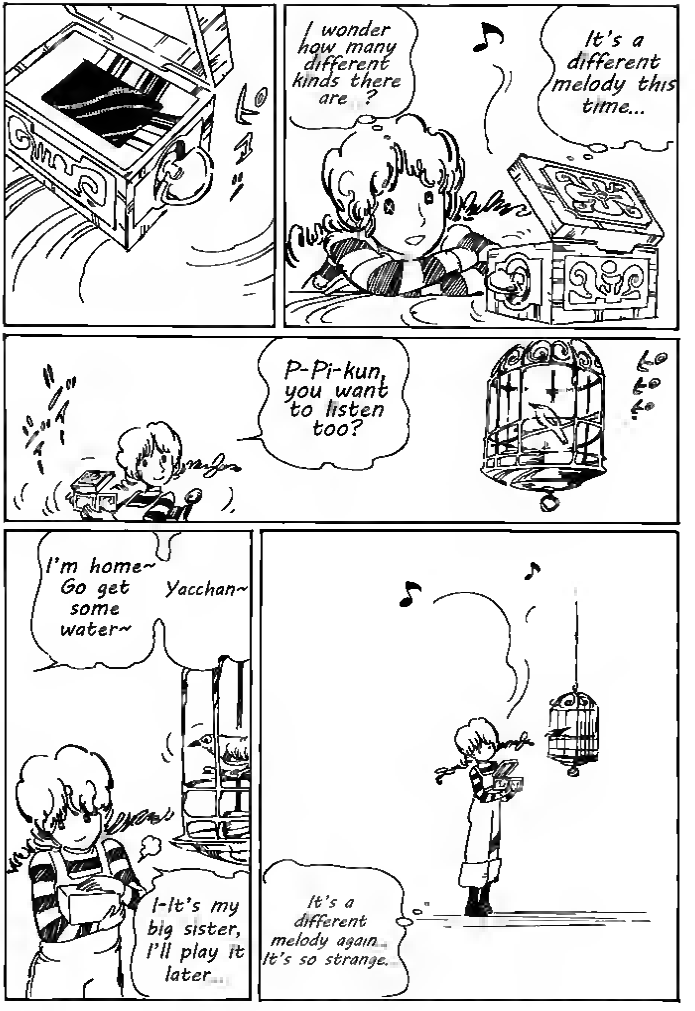

Whew....
I'm such an idiot. I ran away again...
Oh my, it's a music box...

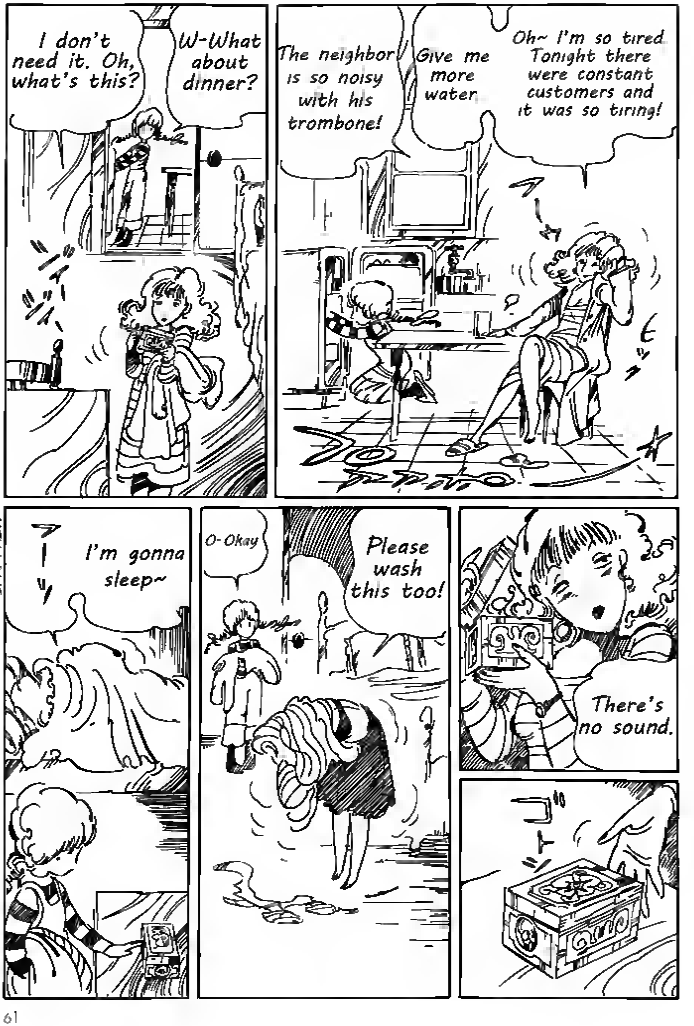

I wonder if it still works...?
It looks pretty old...
I wonder if someone forgot it was buried..?
What a beautiful melody !

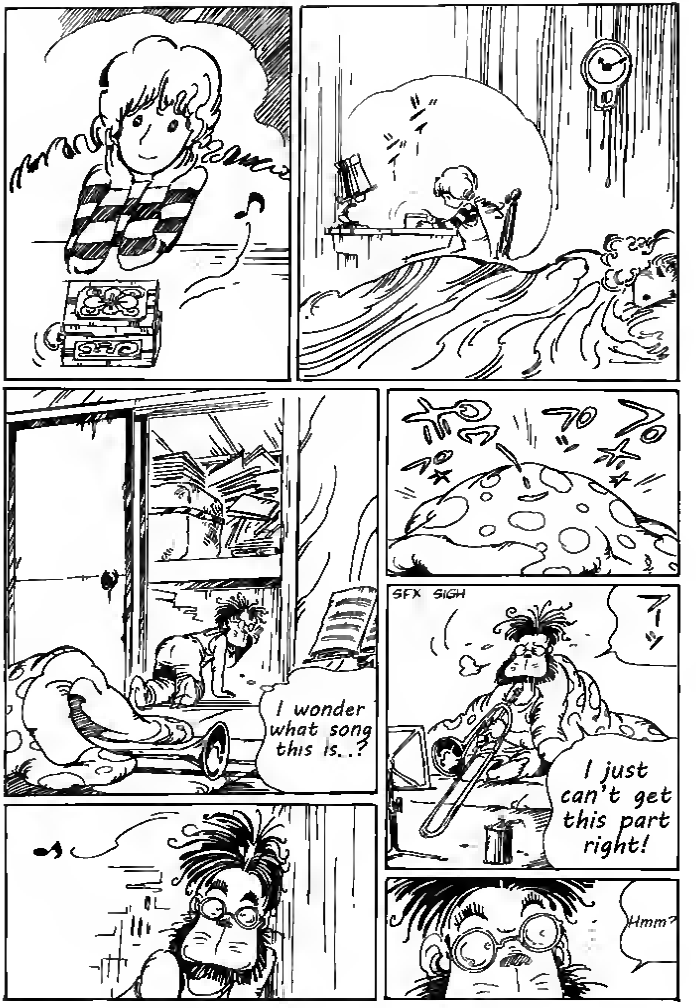

I've never heard it before...
It's a little bit sad...
If I was a music box,
I'd be a broken one..
Maybe I'll borrow it for just one day
Maybe I should keep it buried
....What should I do?


SFX: HEHEHEHE
SFX: CHUCKLE CHUCKLE
SFX: GIGGLE GIGGLE GIGGLE
SFX: SCRATCH
Hmm... I'm so bored...


Oh!? Maybe that's Yacchan!?
I only have two more cups of ramen left...
The Philharmonic all day long around here doesn't come anymore, and my job for the pachinko ends so fast...
Yacchan~ Won't you come over here~? Won't you talk with me~?
Ohh...
She's so quiet again today
I'll go watch TV.


I wonder how many different kinds there are?
It's a different melody this time...
P-Pi-kun, you want to listen too?
I'm home~ Go get some water~
Yacchan~
I-It's my big sister, I'll play it later...
It's a different melody again... It's so strange...

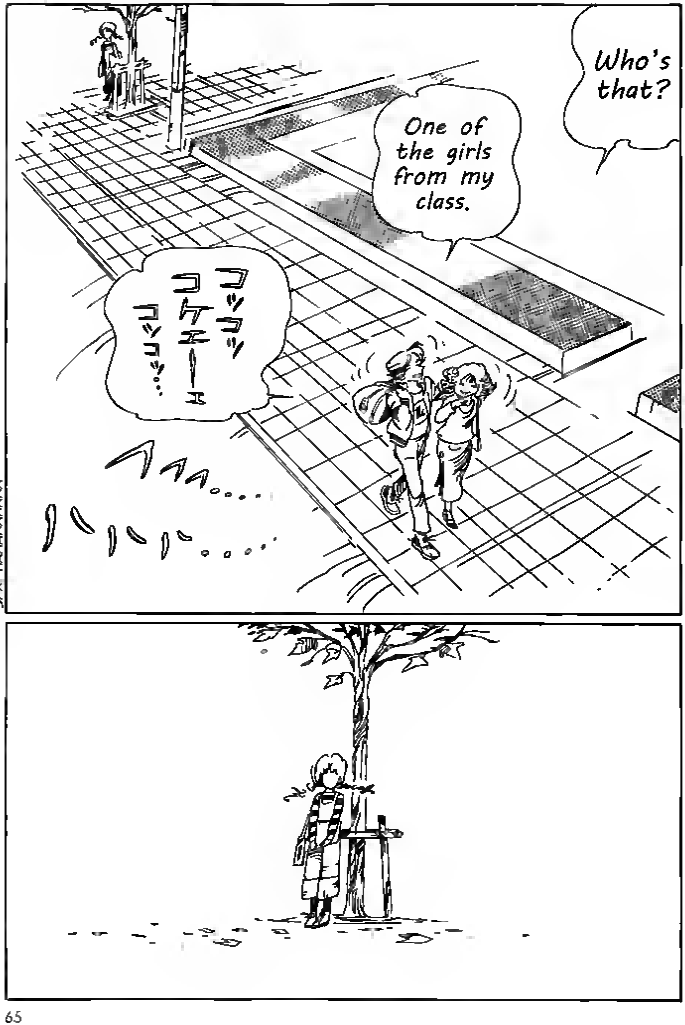

I don't need it. Oh, what's this?
W-What about dinner?
The neighbor is so noisy with his trombone!
Give me more water
Oh~ I'm so tired Tonight there were constant customers and it was so tiring!
SFX. PHEW
I'm gonna sleep~
O-Okay
Please wash this too!
There's no sound.

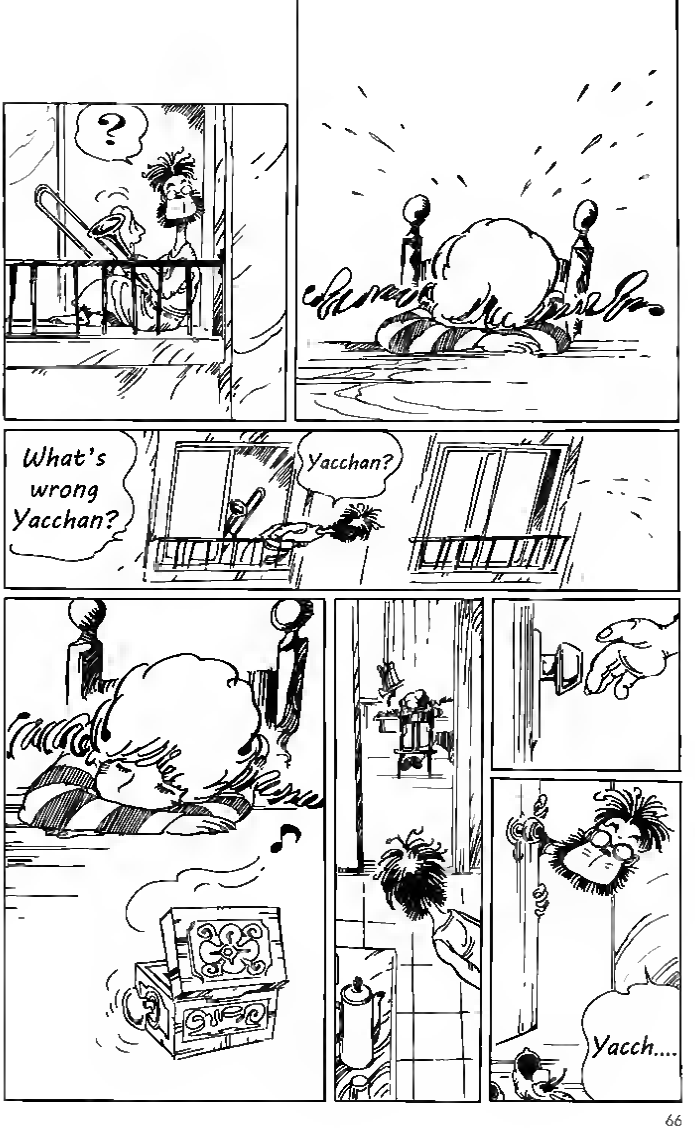

I wonder what song this is..?
SFX SIGH
I just can't get this part right!
Hmm?

Ah!
Yacchan, look~ It's Taniyama-kun~
閲覧室
His clothes are great too!
He's always so cool! He's handsome, smart, and always nice to girls!
You're so lucky to have an assigned seat next to him!
Right Yacchan~

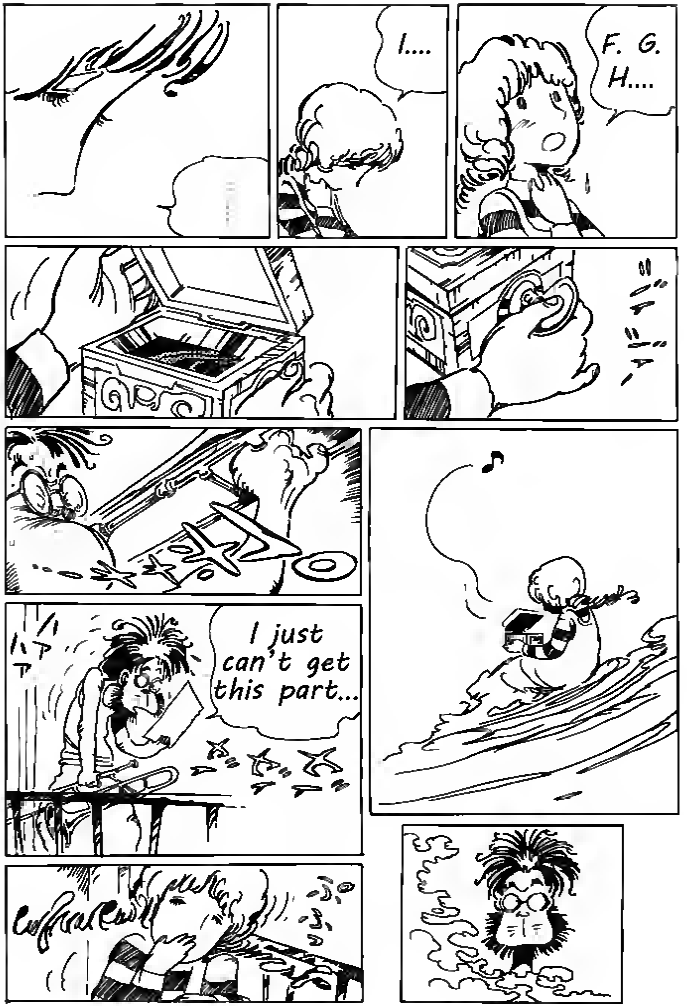
学級日誌
I'm so busy with soccer, there's no time!
This! I copied all of your notes.
T-The end of the semester exams...
I'll try my best. Bye!
Thank you about yesterday!
Huh?

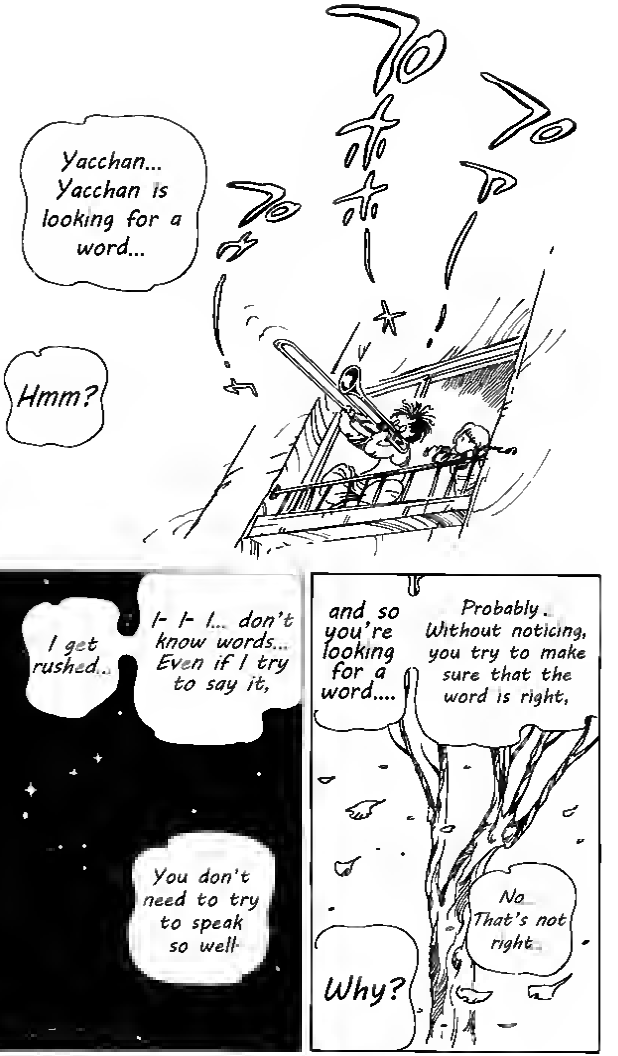
TEXT: COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!

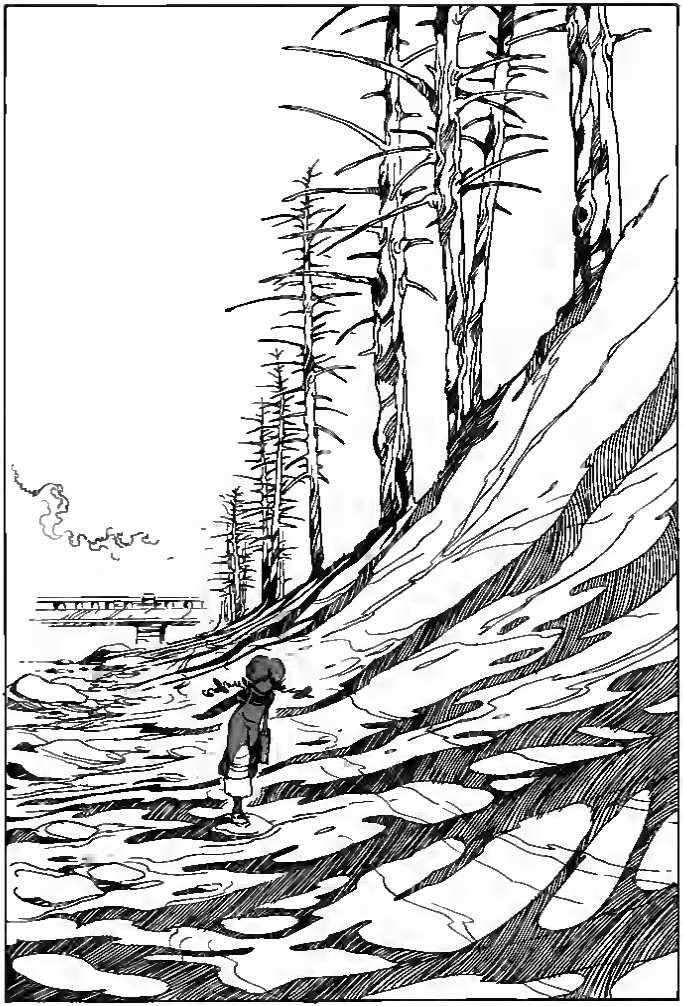


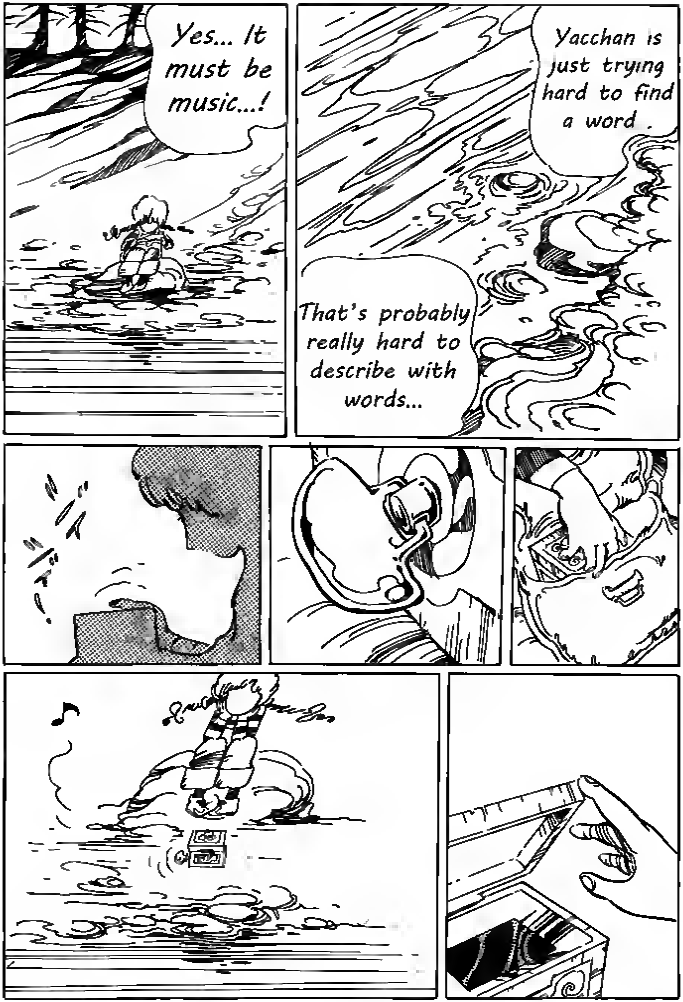

?
What's wrong Yacchan?
Yacchan?
Yacch....

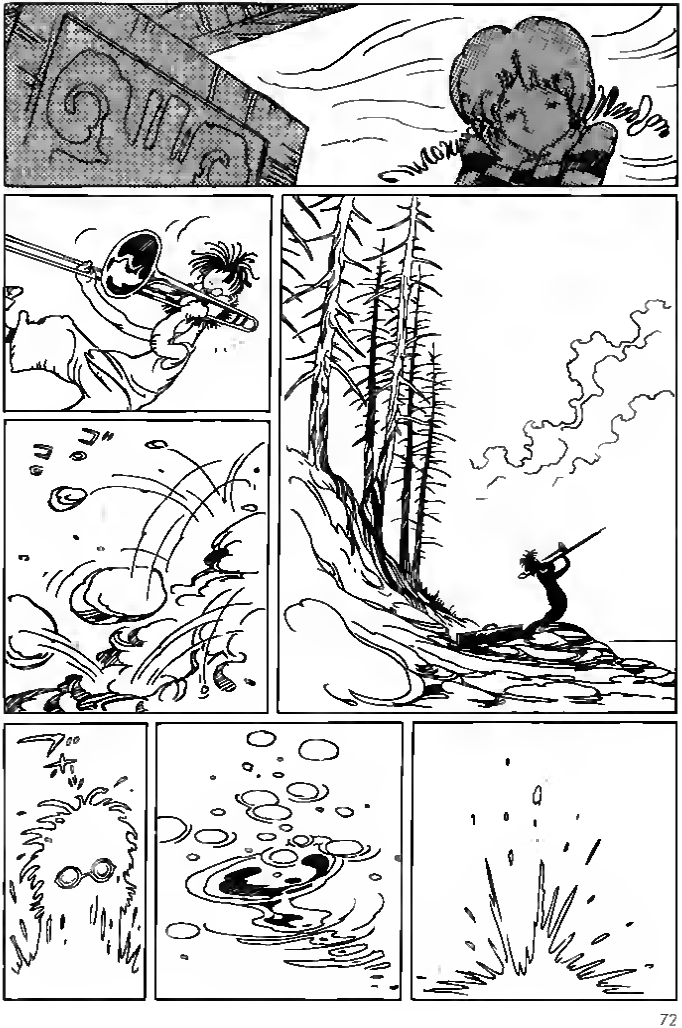
She's sleeping...
Something bad must've happened at school...
There's no sound..
F, fghij, fghi...
F...
Fg...
D...
A, ab, abcde...
A...
?

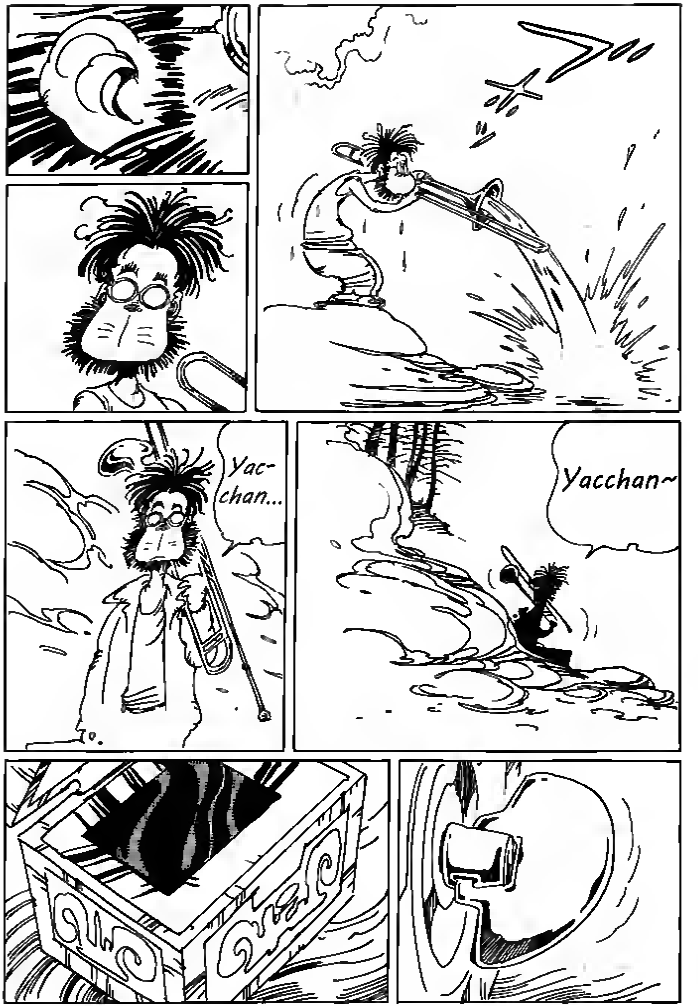

I....
F. G. H....
I just can't get this part...


Yacchan... Yacchan is looking for a word...
Hmm?
I get rushed...
I- I- I... don't know words... Even if I try to say it,
You don't need to try to speak so well
and so you're looking for a word....
Probably... Without noticing, you try to make sure that the word is right,
Why?
No. That's not right.




Yes... It must be music...!
Yacchan is just trying hard to find a word.
That's probably really hard to describe with words...



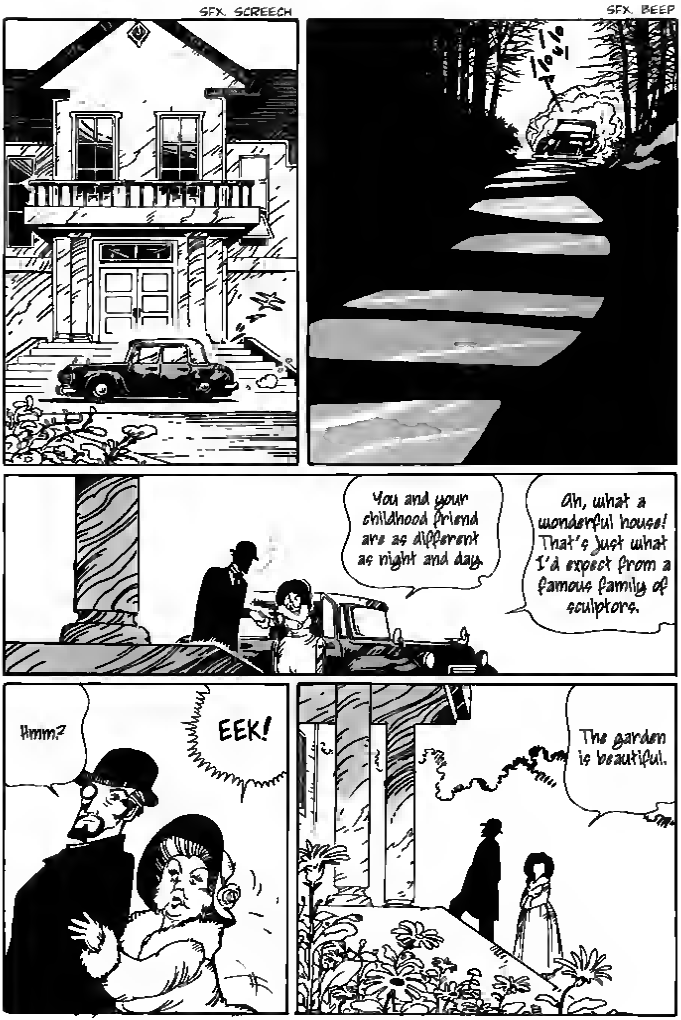

Yac-
chan...
Yacchan~

おるごおおる■完

Indian Summer

Vera!
Vera!
Where are you?!

It's bad enough that you can't speak, but now it seems that you've got trouble hearing too!
What were you doing?! Come right away when I call you!
Make the preparations for lunch...
They're a couple who are old friends of mine. The man is Cyril, who brought you here from the Maids' Association.
Also, I'm having guests over today.
If you understand, then you can go!


SFX. SCREECH
SFX. BEEP
You and your childhood friend are as different as night and day.
Ah, what a wonderful house! That's just what I'd expect from a famous family of sculptors.
Hmm?
EEK!
The garden is beautiful.

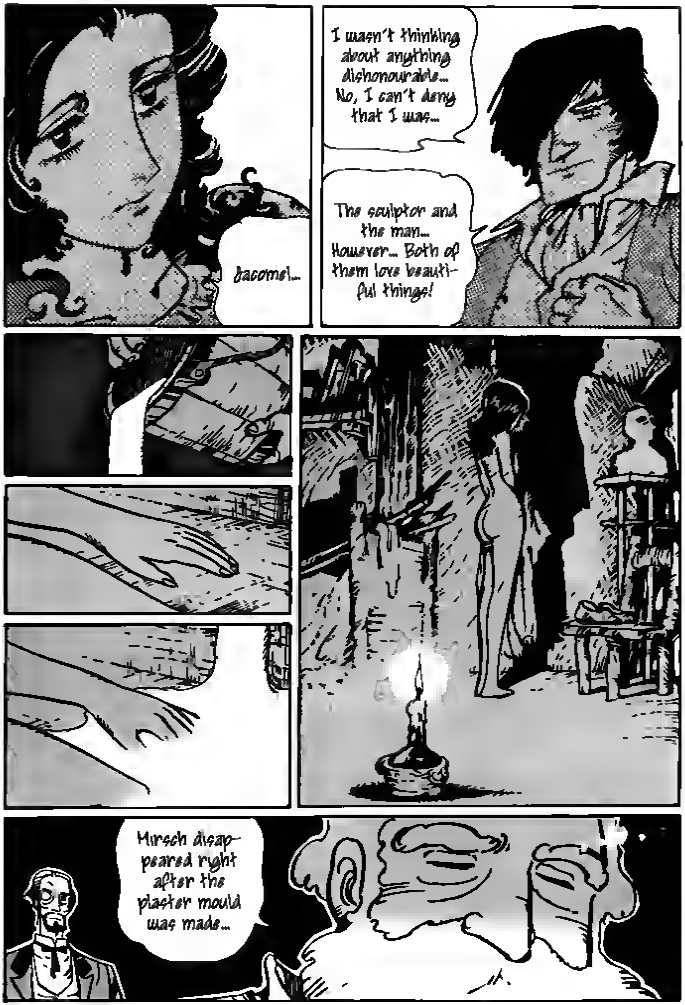
SFX: KNOCK KNOCK
Who's that?
The maid. She's been working here for a long time now...
It's been thirty years hahaha, we've both grown old...
Well, well! It's been a long time.
Her face... It's quite disgusting...
Stop that...

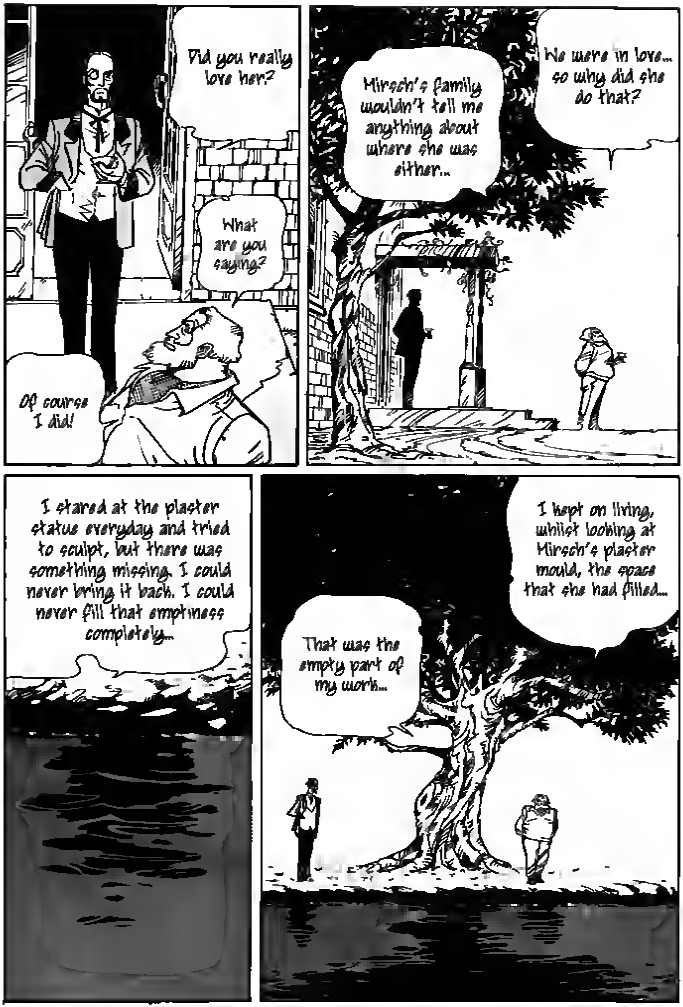
SFX CLINK CLINK
Oh my! That's unfortunate, Jacomo!. All your works fetched high prices...
It really is unfortunate!
I haven't made any sculptures for a long time now...
What have you been
Go...
making recently?

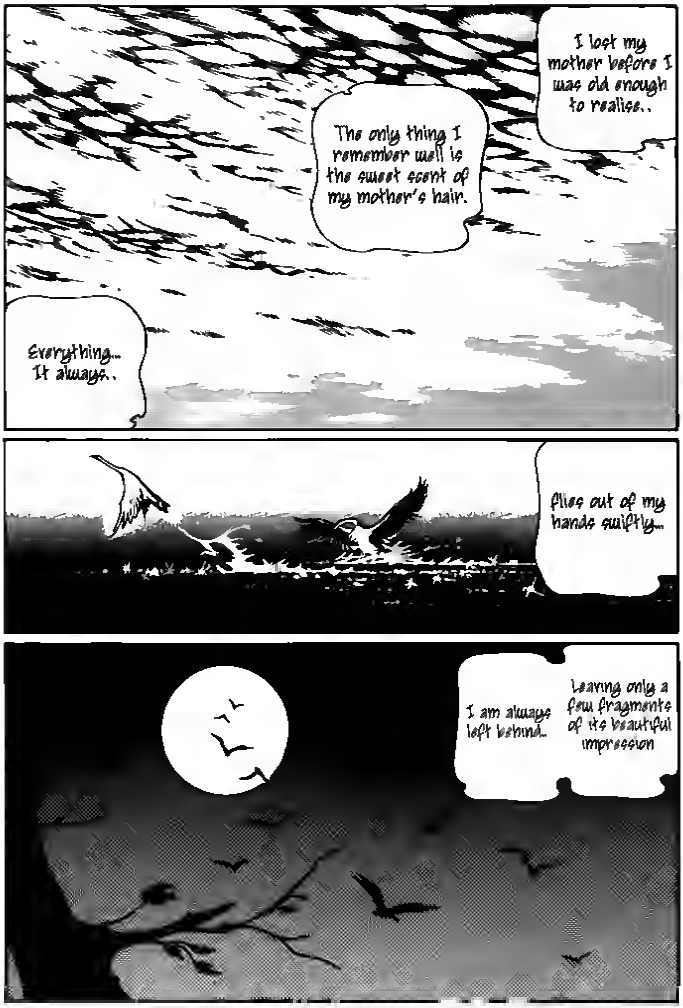
Ah Is that so, Madam?
I haven't had the desire to do it I must be feeling my age...
As you haven't announced any new works, my husband's pen has become dull too
I'm sorry, Coll. Your writing is brilliant Even though we were far apart, when I read your critiques,
I felt the desire to create. It was like tough love for me.
I keep on challenging your wisdom, and even now
I realize I'm unable to accomplish that.

She was a beautiful woman...
You still... haven't forgotten about Mirsch...
Compared to Mirsch's beauty, these things are..
Anyway, wasn't it you who knew Mirsch and that these sculptures were modelled after her image?
Stop that, Cioli. You should have realised!
Among all your works, your sculptures of woman were always praised.
In that inner room...
By the way... what's that?

SFX: CLATTER
カタ、
I swear to God! I'll close my eyes.
I can work with my eyes closed...
It's embarrassing...
Please, Mirsch!


I wasn't thinking about anything dishonourable... No, I can't deny that I was...
The sculptor and the man... However... Both of them love beautiful things!
...become!...
Mirsch disappeared right after the plaster mould was made...


Did you really love her?
What are you saying?
Of course I did!
We were in love... so why did she do that?
Hirsch's family wouldn't tell me anything about where she was either...
I stared at the plaster statue everyday and tried to sculpt, but there was something missing. I could never bring it back. I could never fill that emptiness completely...
That was the empty part of my work...
I kept on living, whilst looking at Hirsch's plaster mould, the space that she had filled...


I lost my mother before I was old enough to realise..
The only thing I remember well is the sweet scent of my mother's hair.
Everything... It always..
flies out of my hands swiftly...
I am always left behind..
Leaving only a few fragments of its beautiful impression

But...
No, I'm not saying that's a bad thing...
Haven't you been working too hard...?
Aren't you focusing completely on a single part of your target?
You're so passionate about carving that single part into a sculpture.
If true beauty exists in this world,
making it exist is entrusted to those who can see it earnestly. No! That's not right. It's those who know! Perception! Wisdom!
It goes without saying that you have exerted yourself trying to establish proof of true perception with your chisel!

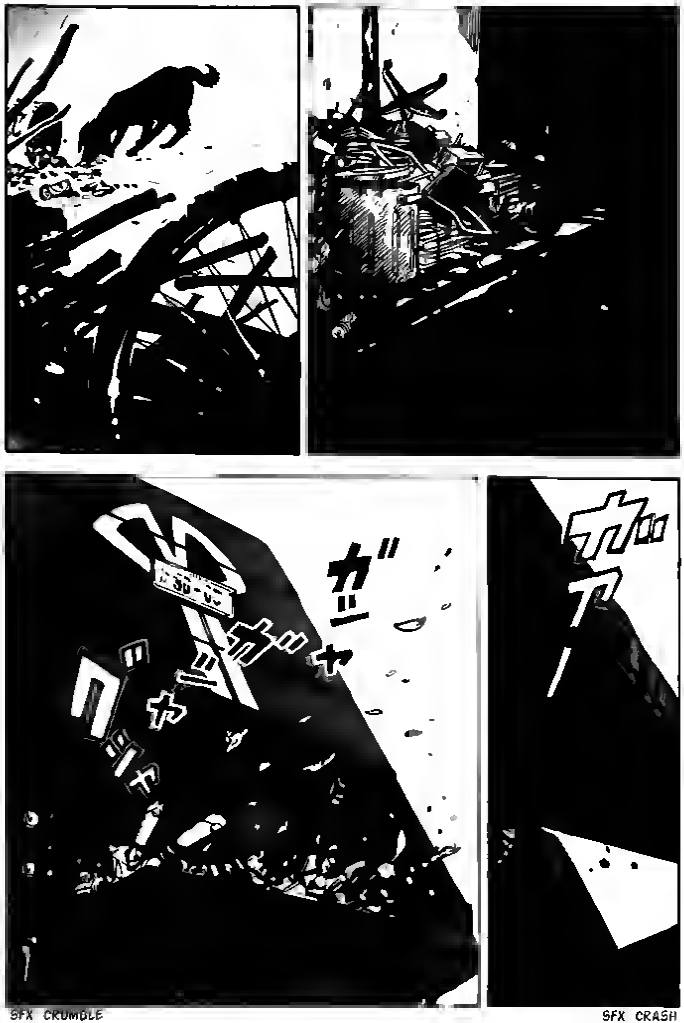
WHAT?!
I know the reason for Mirsch's disappearance.
To tell the truth...
Is that true..?!
You probably remember that there was a great forest fire back then... She was coming home on the mountain path that day, and she was surrounded by flames and badly burned.
I received a letter from her shortly after her disappearance.
And this is what she had written "I don't have the right to be loved by that person anymore."
She had changed into a completely different person. So she disappeared from your sight.
Why didn't Mirsch tell me anything? No matter how much she might have changed.. My heart would...

My heart would.
So where's Mirsch?!
That's because...
but now that I'm seeing you after thirty years, I feel like talking about it...
She told me to keep quiet about the contents of the letter,
I was aware of Mirsch's love.
Whether my ridiculous plan produced an answer or not,
I... wanted to trust you, Jacome. So I made use of a certain plan which resulted in a failure that cannot be undone. So to take responsibility for that...
is her profound love.
But... even greater than that...

SFX: VROOM
...Hmm...
Let's get something warm to eat and go home...
Dear, the weather really is wintry...
Mirsch... Where are you...?
Right... Right!
Hi...
Plan...?
SFX: CHIRP! CHIRP!

小春日和■完

Lover


ガシャ
ゴゴゴ
ガシャ
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ガシャ
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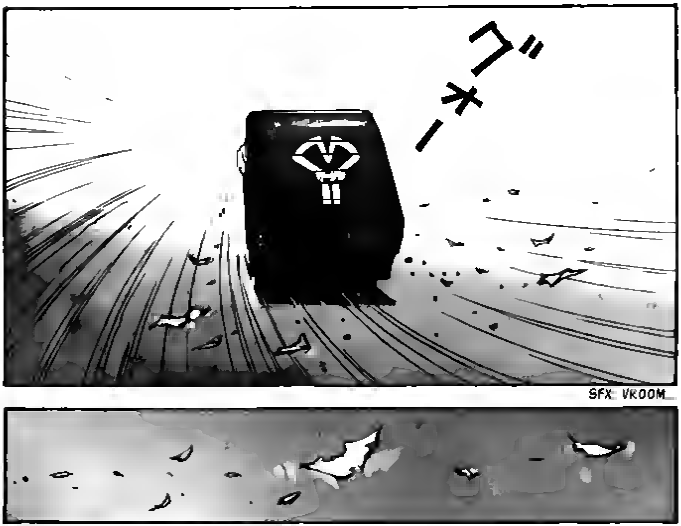
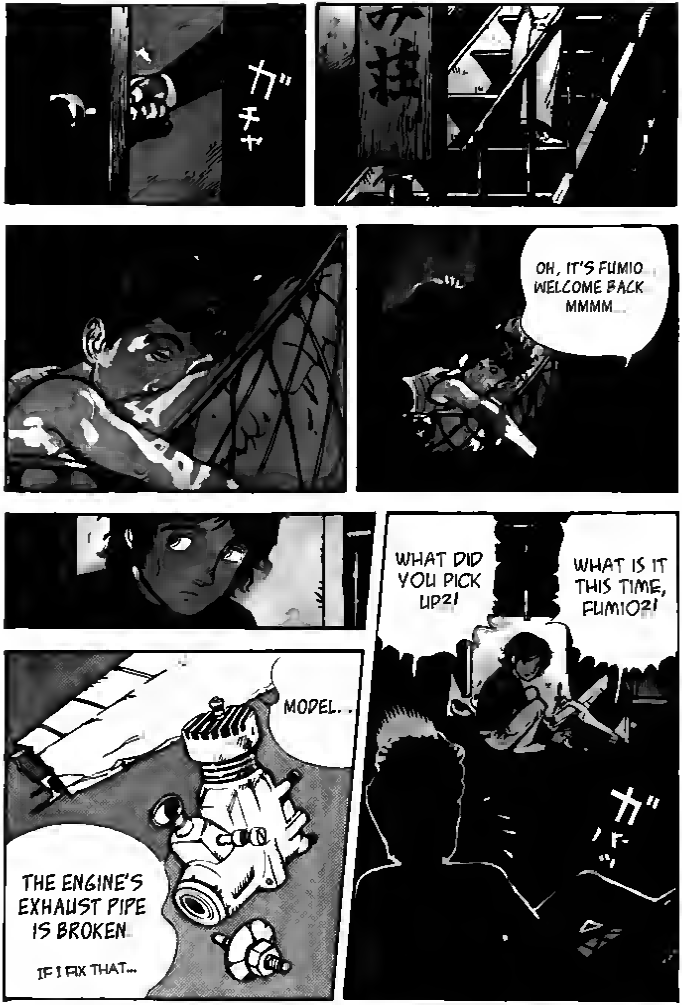
LOVER

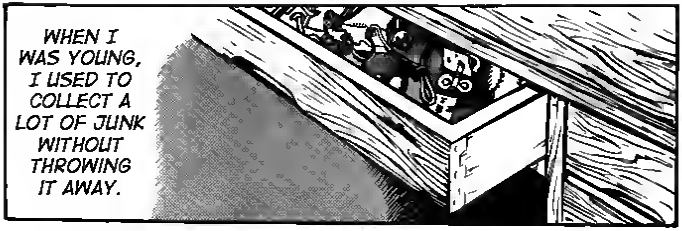


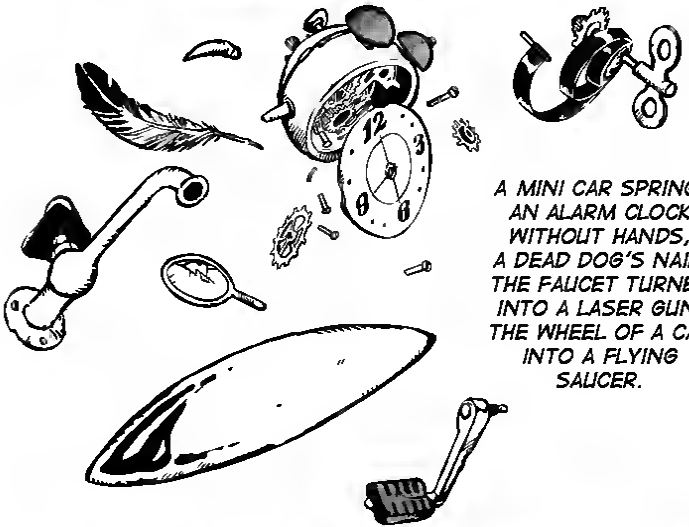
GOOD WORK.
YOU FORGOT SOMETHING?
OKAY. BYE.
ガサゴソ

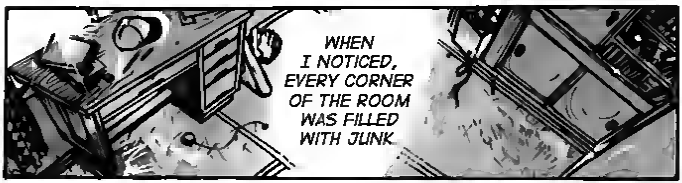

ガチャ
OH, IT'S FUMIO... WELCOME BACK MMMM...
WHAT DID YOU PICK UP?!
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME, FUMIO?!
ガバッ
MODEL...
THE ENGINE'S EXHAUST PIPE IS BROKEN.
IF I FIX THAT...

I'M LEAVING! I HOPE YOU GET SICK WITH ALL THE MOLD AND SMELL OF PAINT!
HIRO-SHI...
AHHHH!!!
IF I FIX... IT'S ALL "FIX," IDIOT!!
I CAN'T STAND THIS PLACE ANY LONGER. I'M LEAVING!! IF I STAY ANY LONGER, I'M GOING TO RUN OUT OF SPACE TO BREATHE!
HAVE FUN LIVING IN THE PILE OF JUNK! IDIOT!
DAMN IT!

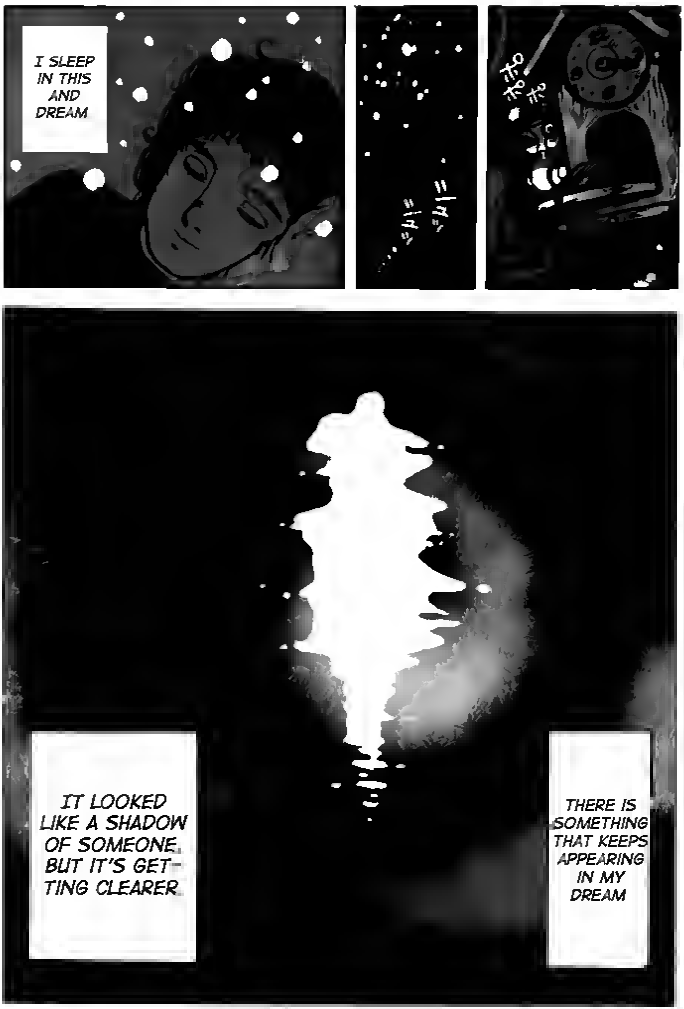
SFX CLASH CLASH
カキーン
ふ～
コ～ン
SFX CCONK CCONK

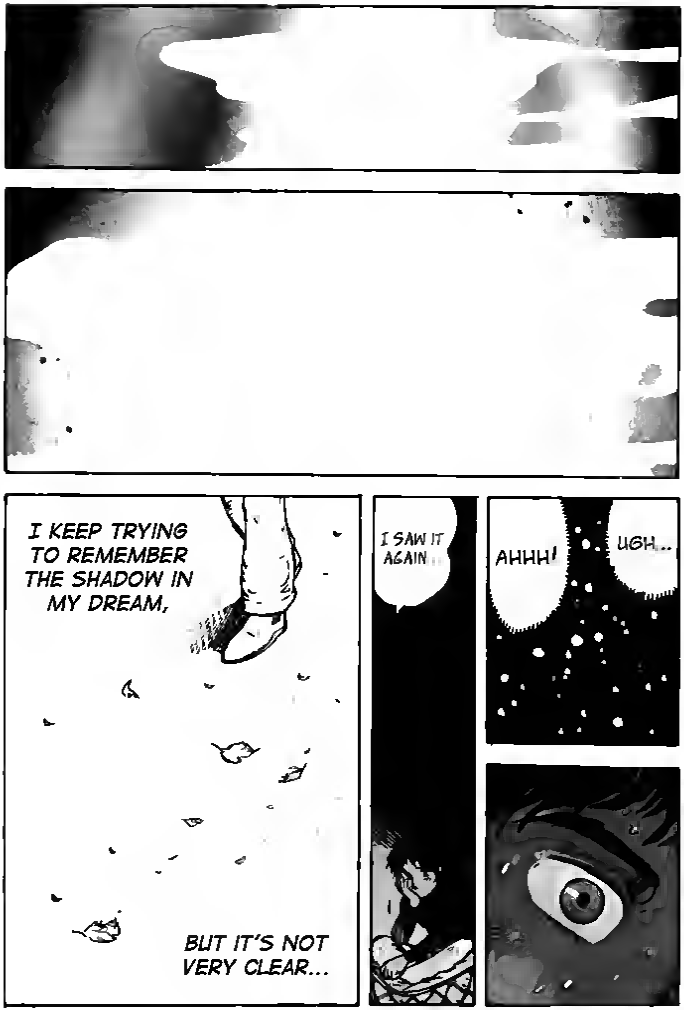

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I USED TO COLLECT A LOT OF JUNK WITHOUT THROWING IT AWAY.


A MINI CAR SPRING, AN ALARM CLOCK WITHOUT HANDS, A DEAD DOG'S NAIL, THE FAUCET TURNED INTO A LASER GUN, THE WHEEL OF A CAR INTO A FLYING SAUCER.


WHEN I NOTICED, EVERY CORNER OF THE ROOM WAS FILLED WITH JUNK.

WITH HIROSHI WORKING IN THE DAY, AND ME WORKING IN THE NIGHT, WAS THE REASON WHY WE COULD SWITCH AND TAKE A STEP.
AND TODAY,
THIS HAM-MOCK...
カチッ
SFX: CLICK
ボー
ゴトゴト
ワナ

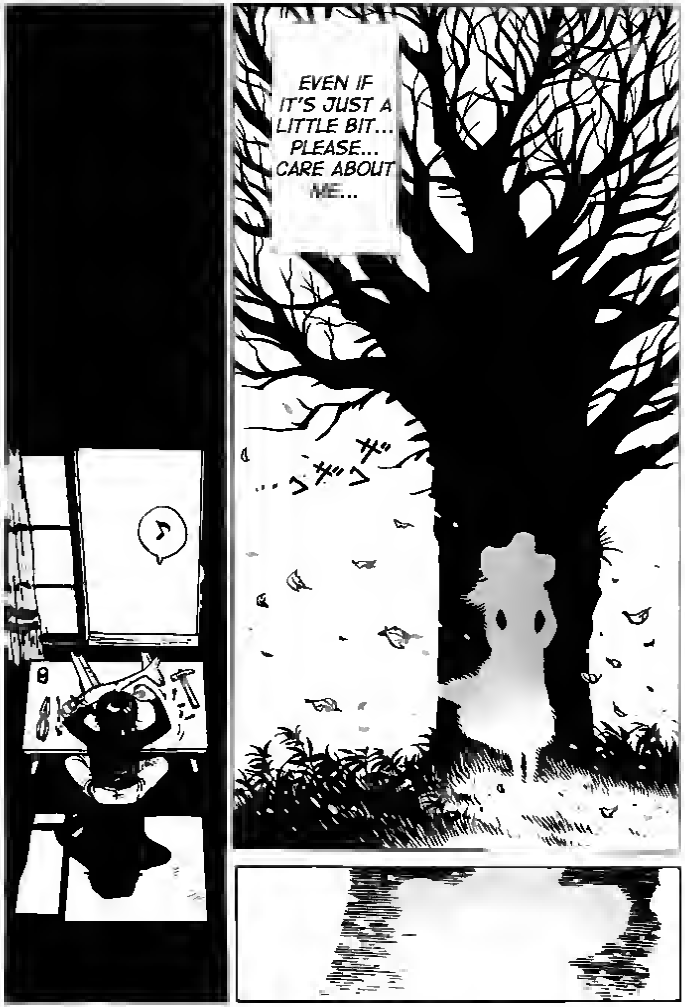

I SLEEP IN THIS AND DREAM
ポポポ
IT LOOKED LIKE A SHADOW OF SOMEONE. BUT IT'S GETTING CLEARER.
THERE IS SOMETHING THAT KEEPS APPEARING IN MY DREAM


I KEEP TRYING TO REMEMBER THE SHADOW IN MY DREAM,
BUT IT'S NOT VERY CLEAR...
I SAW IT AGAIN...
AHHH!
UGH...

WHITE...
HEY, STOP DAYDREAMING AND CLEAN THESE PLATES PROPERLY!
ガシャーン
WHITE...
WHITE, WHITE...
YOU WON'T NOTICE ME...

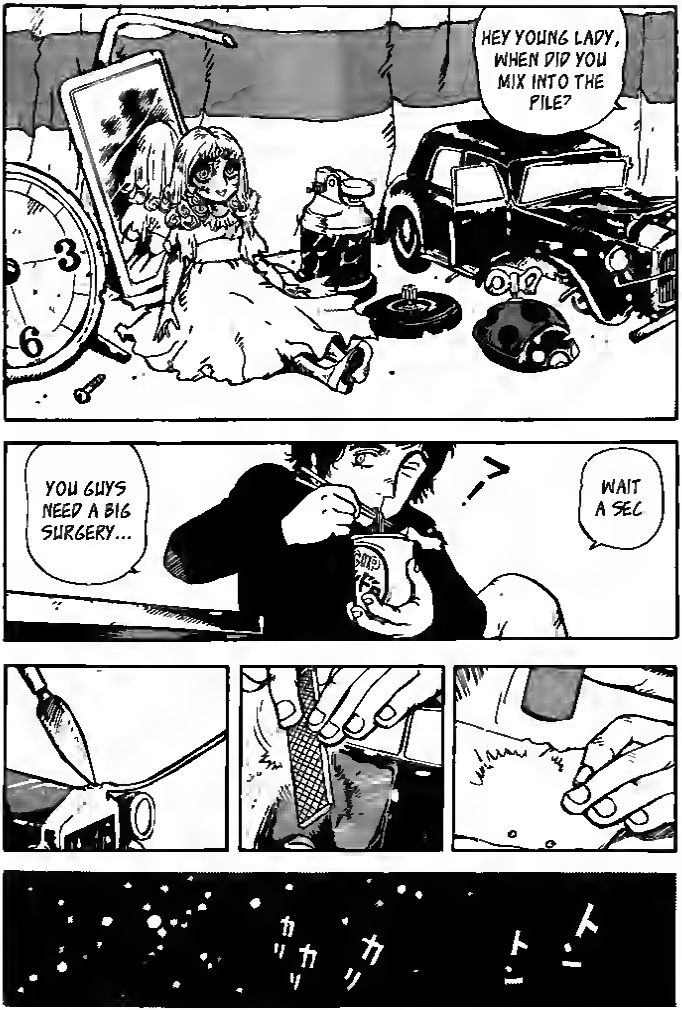
BUT... IT'S NOT SOMETHING IMPOSSIBLE... THERE'S ALWAYS A WALL THERE, A WALL THAT NO ONE CAN SEE...

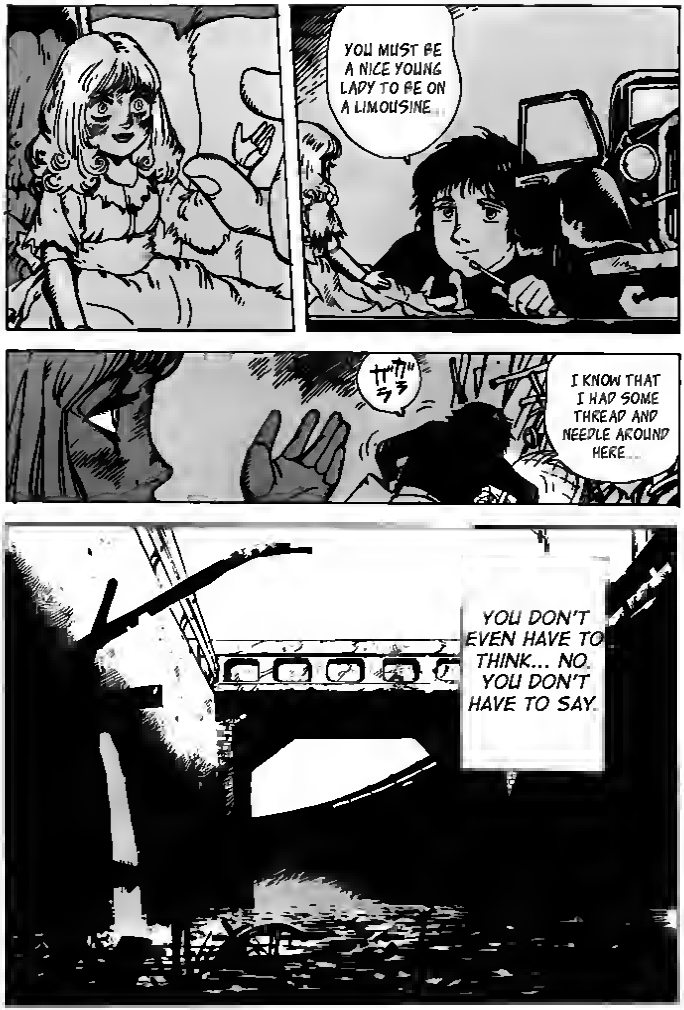
ミーン ミーン
EVEN BEFORE... I'VE ALWAYS...


EVEN IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE BIT... PLEASE... CARE ABOUT ME...
♪

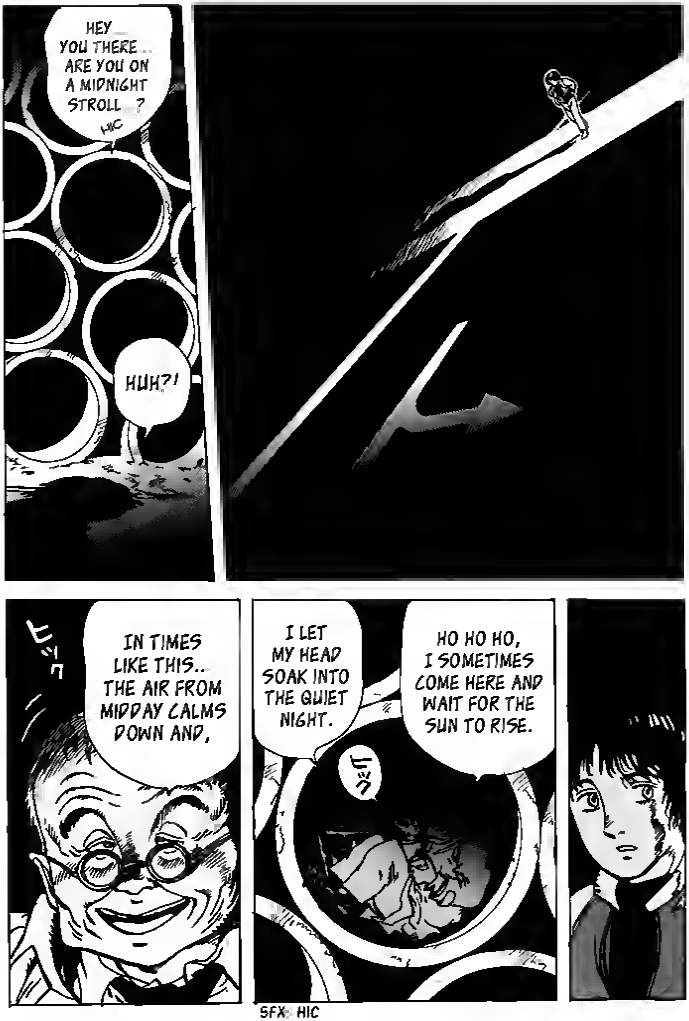
SFX CLANK CLANK
トン
トン
SFX CLANK CLANK
トン
トン
トン
SFX SCRATCH SCRATCH
カリ
カリ
カリ

HAT...!
WHITE...
THAT PERSON IN MY DREAM I WONDER IF I KNOW HER...
ジャー
DID YOU SEE HIRO-SHI?
THAT PERSON YOU LIVED WITH? NO...
ゴゴ...
I WONDER IF HE REALLY DID LEAVE...
ハァ
ガタン
ガラ
OWWW...


HEY YOUNG LADY, WHEN DID YOU MIX INTO THE PILE?
YOU GUYS NEED A BIG SURGERY...
!?
WAIT A SEC
カリカリカリ
トニートニー

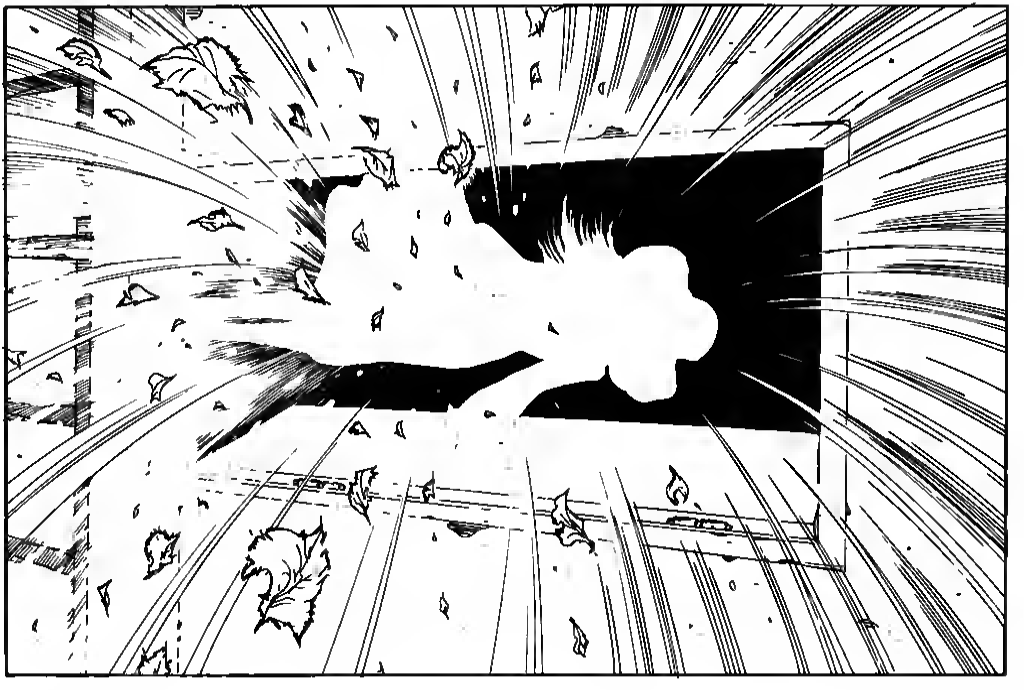

YOU MUST BE A NICE YOUNG LADY TO BE ON A LIMOUSINE...
ガラガラ
I KNOW THAT I HAD SOME THREAD AND NEEDLE AROUND HERE...
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO THINK... NO. YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY.

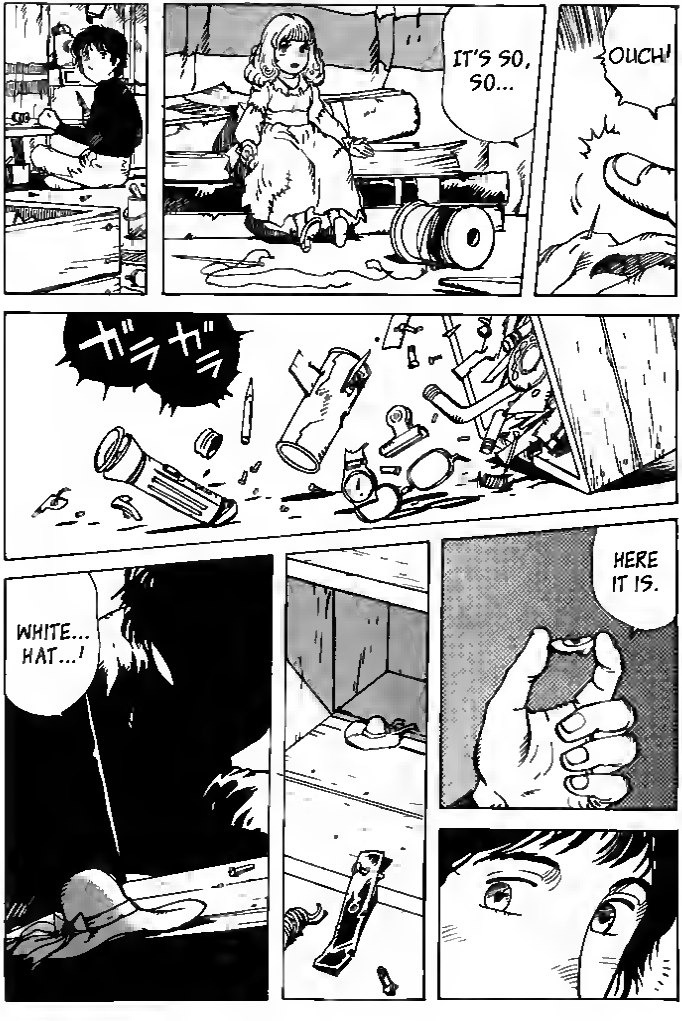
JUST A LITTLE BIT, PLEASE CARE ABOUT ME...
I FEEL VERY HAPPY JUST BY SEEING YOU...
BUT AT THAT TIME, I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING.
I WAS NEVER UNHAPPY BEFORE.
ヒィー
ブアーン
ゴゴゴ...
JUST LIKE INVISIBLE INK, IT'S GETS CLEARER AND CLEARER EVERYDAY...
コーヒー
リッツ
IS IT A WOMAN THAT I'VE MET BEFORE...?


HEY... YOU THERE.. ARE YOU ON A MIDNIGHT STROLL ?
HIC
HUH?!
IN TIMES LIKE THIS.. THE AIR FROM MIDDAY CALMS DOWN AND,
ヒック
I LET MY HEAD SOAK INTO THE QUIET NIGHT.
HO HO HO, I SOMETIMES COME HERE AND WAIT FOR THE SUN TO RISE.
ヒック

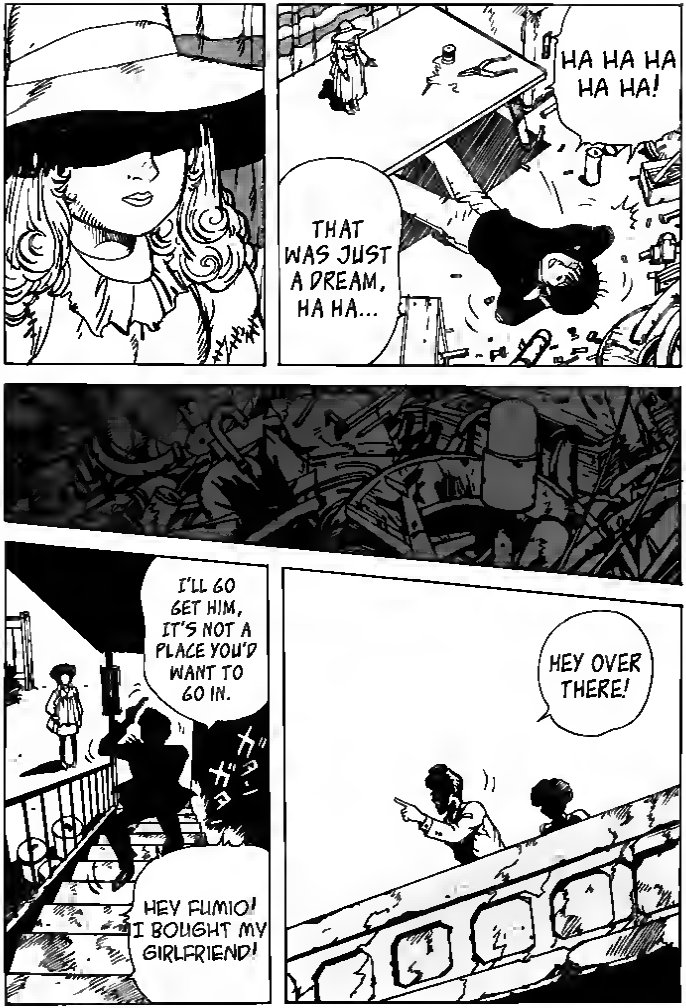
SFX: HIC

HE HE HE HE HE...
HEY! ...YOU LEFT..
THE DARK-NESS INTO A DREAM~ I SPREAD MY WINGS IN THE NIGHT~
I USE THAT AS MY PILLOW, AND DREAM THE BEST DREAM, HO HO HO.
ビク
ゴゴゴ
THAT WOMAN KEEPS COMING BACK IN MY DREAM.
ギィー
ギィー



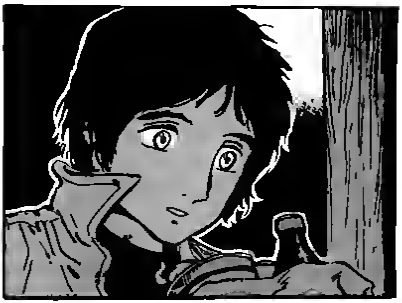

IT'S SO, SO...
OUCH!
ガラガラ
HERE IT IS.
WHITE... HAT...!

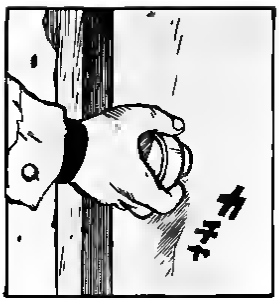
COULD...
COULD IT...

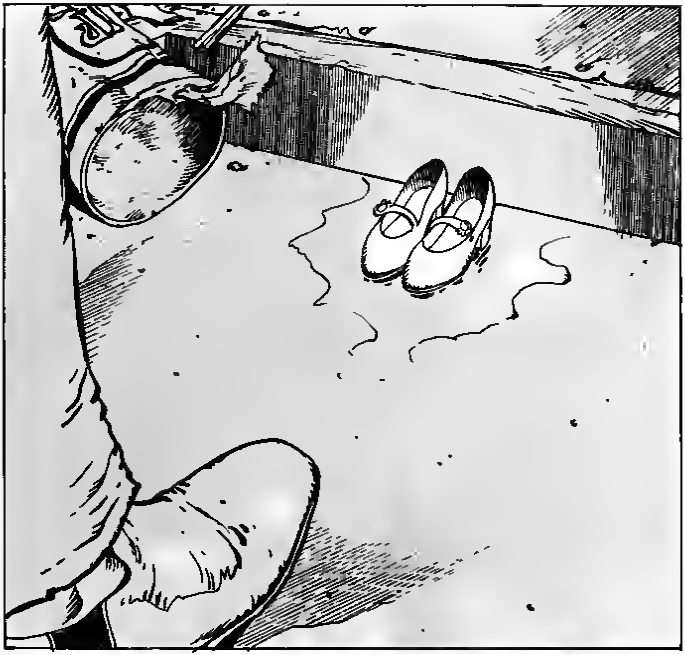

HA HA HA HA HA!
THAT WAS JUST A DREAM, HA HA...
I'LL GO GET HIM, IT'S NOT A PLACE YOU'D WANT TO GO IN.
ガヨーン ガヨ
HEY FUMIO! I BOUGHT MY GIRLFRIEND!
HEY OVER THERE!

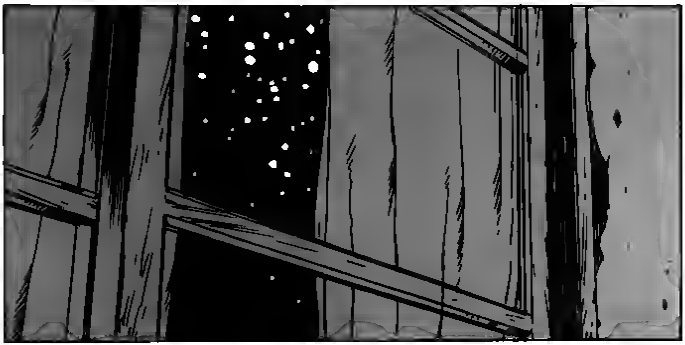
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO MY LOVING GIRLFRIEND!
ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?
OH, IT'S HIRO-SHI
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH A FACE LIKE YOU GOT DUMPED?
HEY!
STOP IT!
ISN'T SHE JUST CUTE?
HE HE HE ..

I NEVER SAW THE WOMAN IN MY DREAMS AGAIN, AS IF SHE DISAPPEARED INTO A FOG...



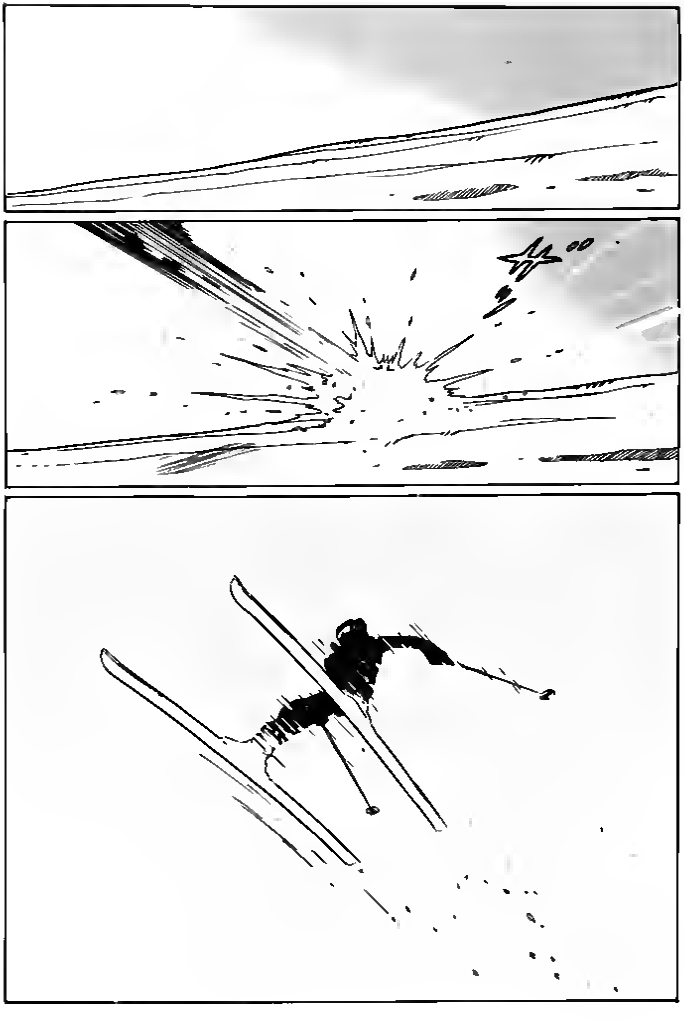


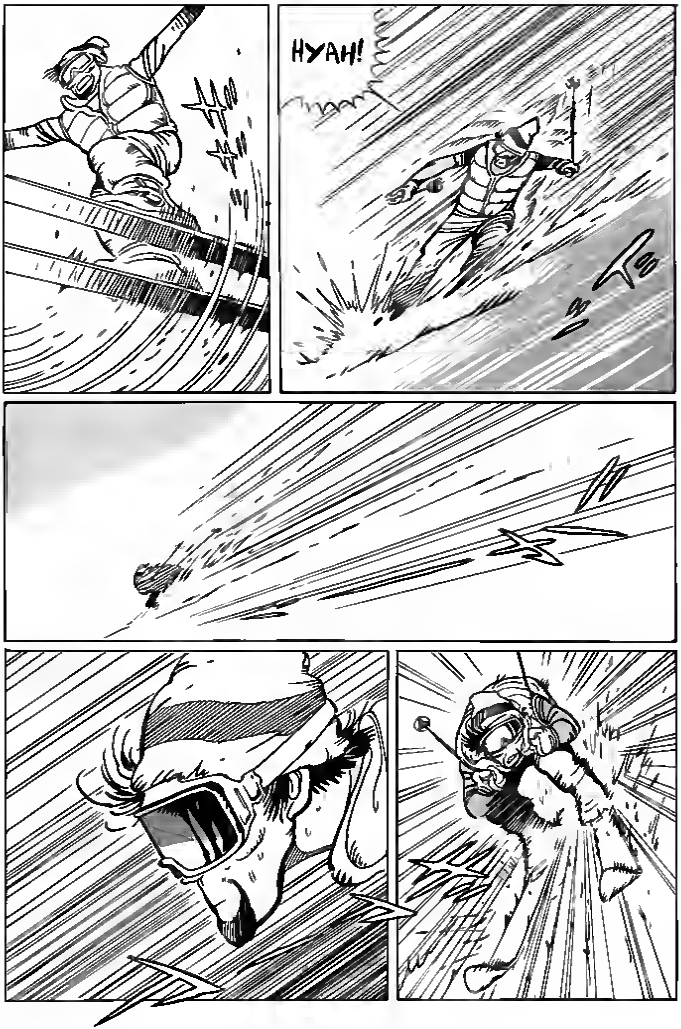


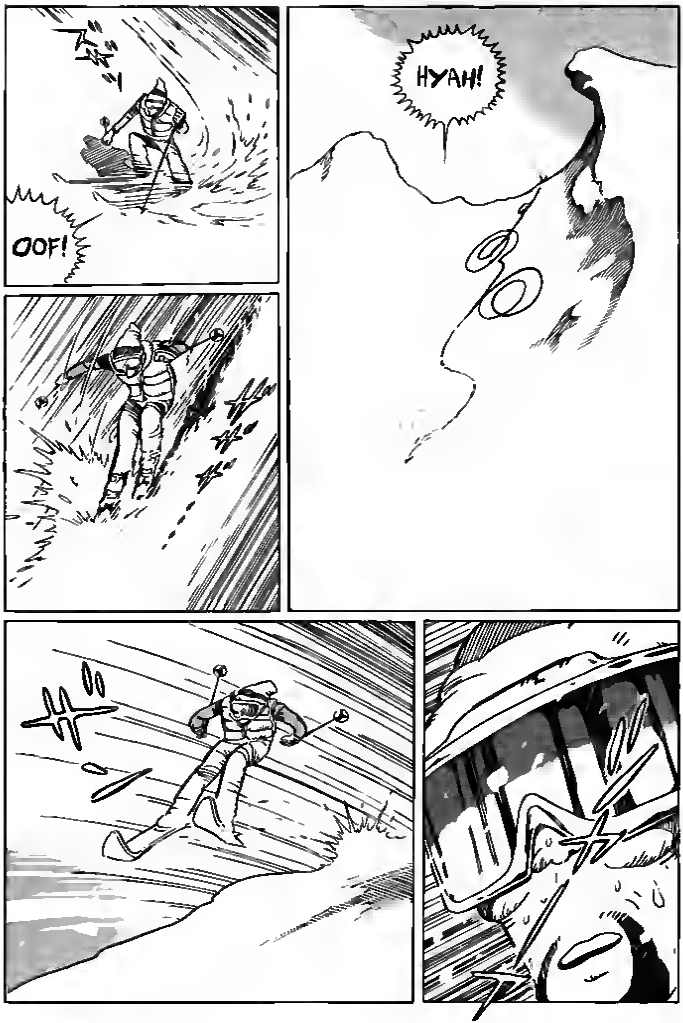


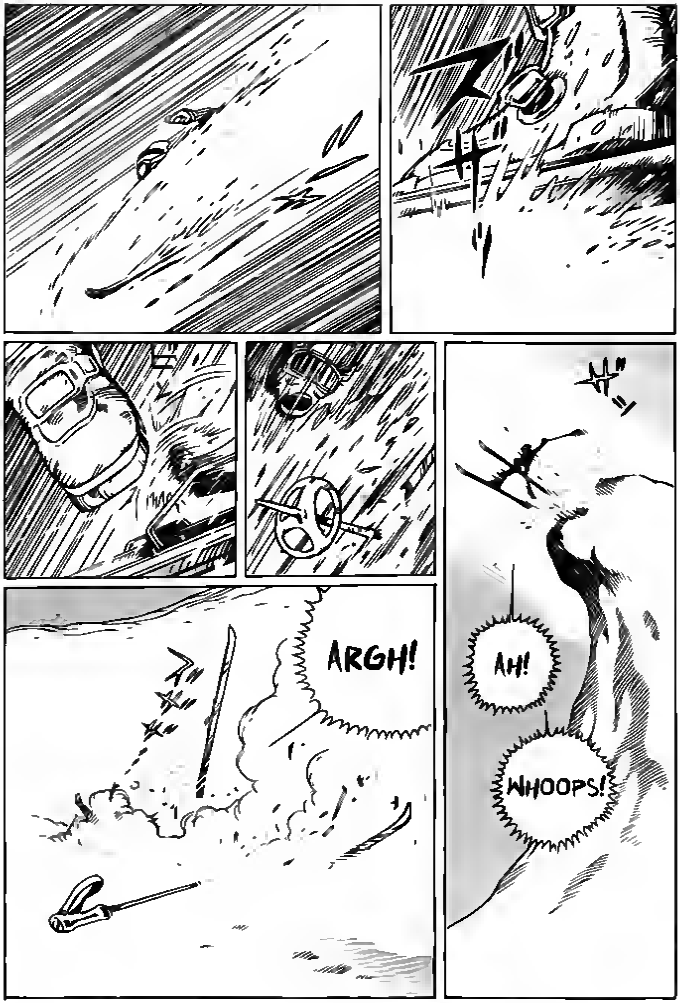
WINTER MOON

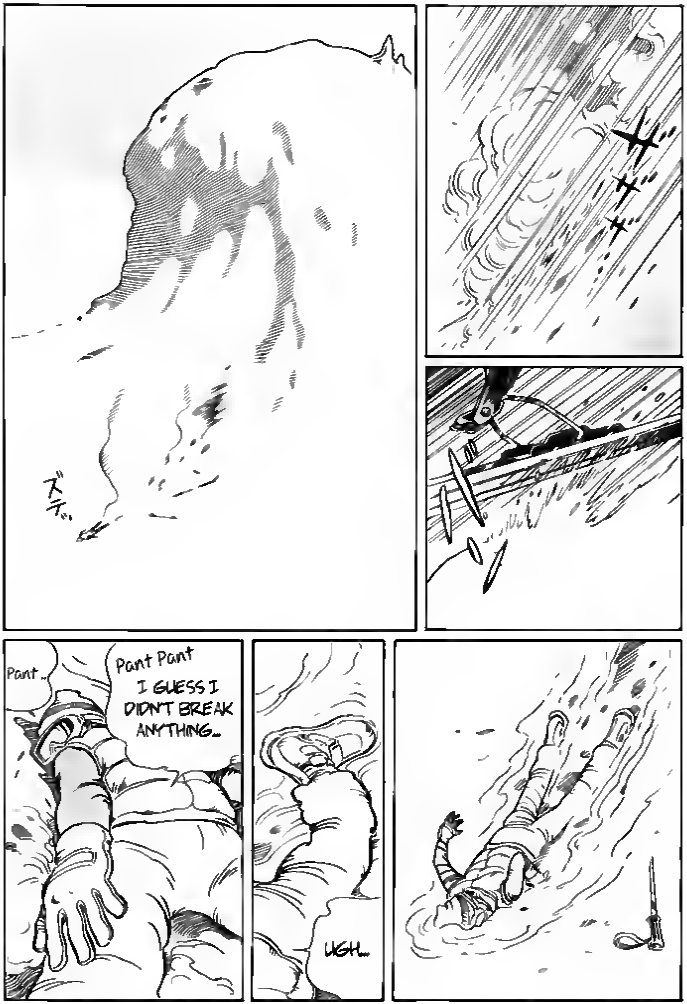
Sharp cool air,
The moon was
shining as if some-
one had polished it,
As if it would
shatter and break,
With just one soft
touch——




HYAH!

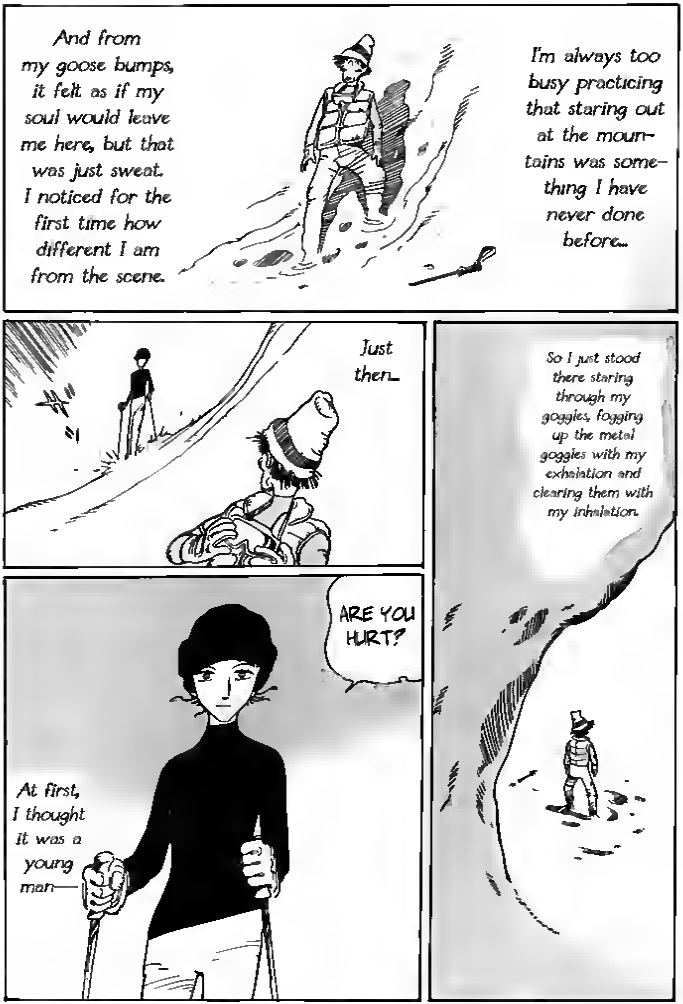

HYAH!
OOF!


AH!
WHOOPS!
ARGH!


ズ…
Pant…
Pant Pant
I GUESS I
DIDN'T BREAK
ANYTHING…
UGH…

Pant pant pant...
I NEED TO STRENGTHEN MY LEG MUSCLES...
Pant, pant..
I PULLED MY HIP... MY KICKS ARE TOO WEAK...
Pant, pant...
Pant pant pant
AH, DAMMIT!
Pant, pant...
Pant...
SO I WAITED UNTIL I CAUGHT MY BREATH...

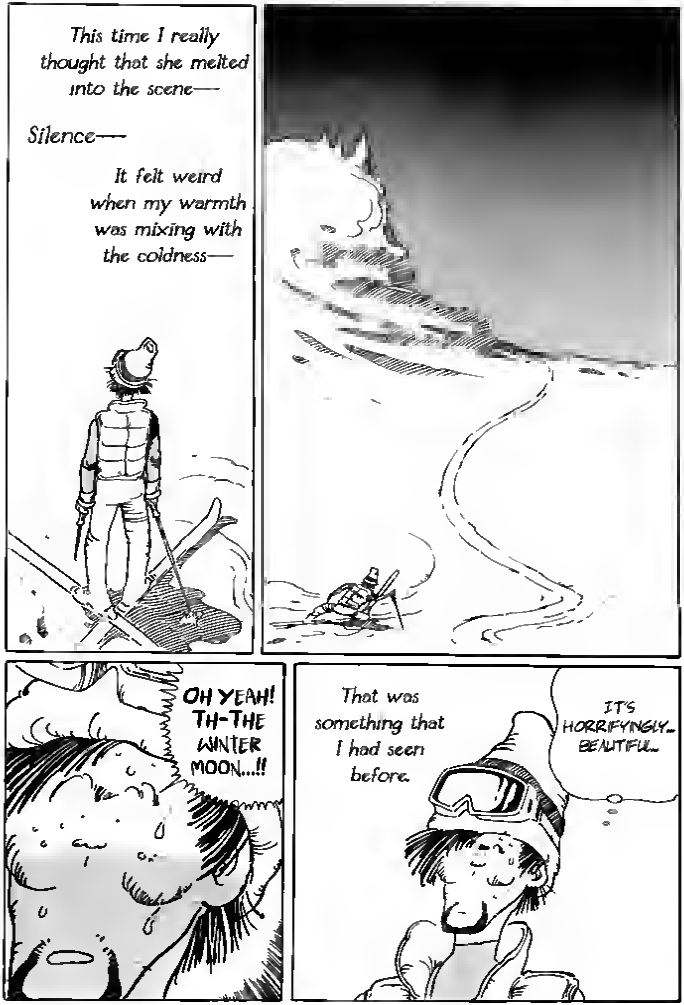
Then, I suddenly noticed
the silence all around.
—Yes, I noticed suddenly,
The heavy pressure of silence,
The blue eternal suction,
The white that reflects everything,
And in the middle of that picture,
I was pushed out.

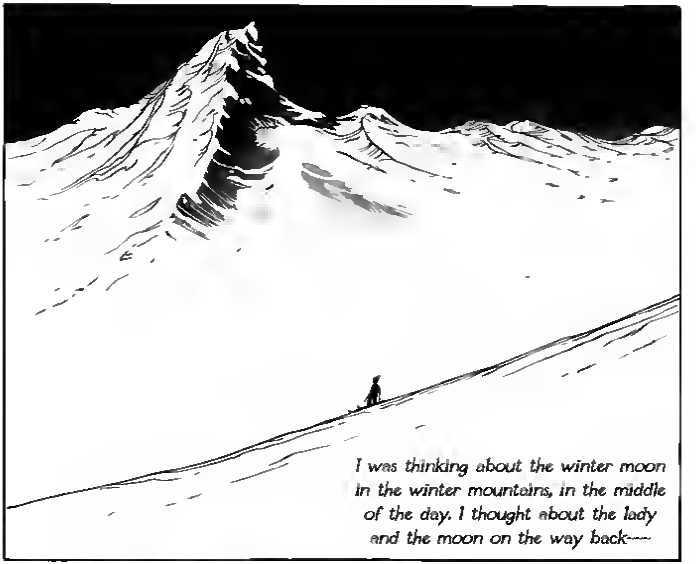

And from my goose bumps, it felt as if my soul would leave me here, but that was just sweat. I noticed for the first time how different I am from the scene.
I'm always too busy practicing that staring out at the mountains was something I have never done before...
Just then...
So I just stood there staring through my goggles, fogging up the metal goggles with my exhalation and clearing them with my inhalation.
ARE YOU HURT?
At first, I thought it was a young man—

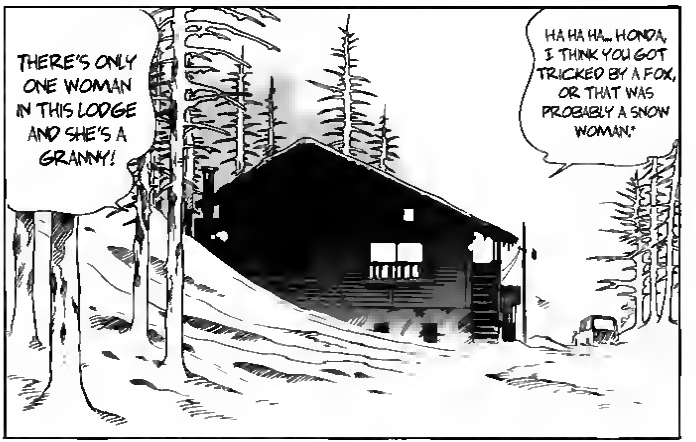
No, it looked as if she was part of the scene. The reason is, because for me, my feelings from earlier, hasn't changed at all.
Cool and calm eyes, Lips tight together as if hesitating, But the shoulders are smooth and relaxed. To me, it looked like she was melting into the scene.
HA HA HA... I WAS JUST TAKING A BREAK, HA HA...
バタバタ
H... HURT...?
ARE YOU FROM AROUND HERE?!
OH, WAIT A SECOND, THERE!
NO...

*TR/N: T-UNIVERSITY AS IN TOKYO UNIVERSITY.

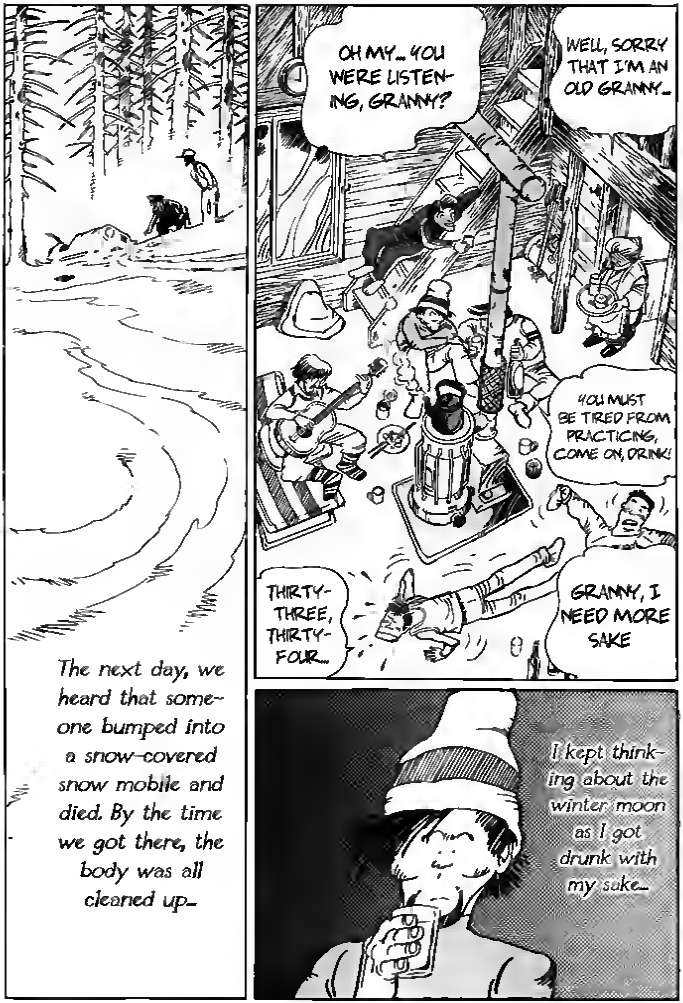
ISN'T THIS SIGHT BEAUTIFUL...
I'M HONDA, STAYING AT THE FIR TREE LODGE. I CAME ON A SKING TRIP FROM T-UNIVERSITY*.
WELL, YOU'RE VERY GOOD AT SKIING...
The second I said it, the scene before me felt as if it were sand washed away by the waves.
Why did I say such a thing? I felt like I was burning. Well, I couldn't say anything.
スキー
OH, WOULD YOU MIND GOING BACK TOGE-
THER?!
スー


This time I really thought that she melted into the scene—
Silence—
It felt weird when my warmth was mixing with the coldness—
OH YEAH! TH-THE WINTER MOON...!!
That was something that I had seen before.
IT'S HORRIFYNGLY... BEAUTIFUL...

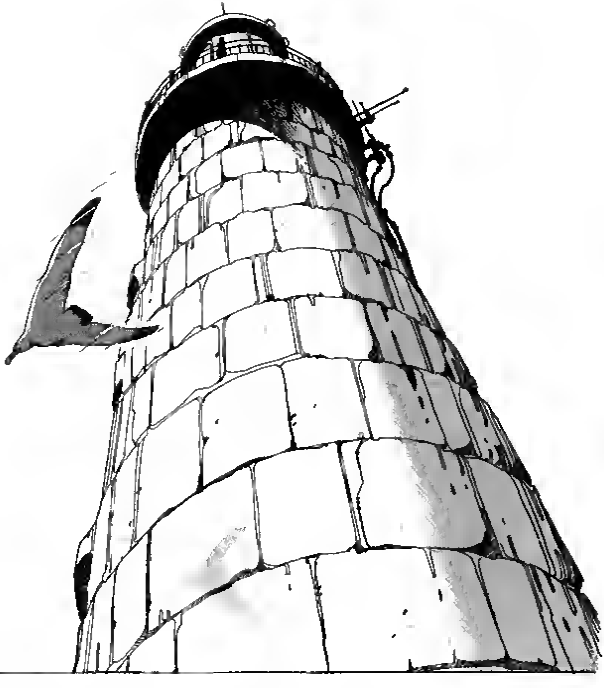

I was thinking about the winter moon in the winter mountains, in the middle of the day. I thought about the lady and the moon on the way back----


THERE'S ONLY ONE WOMAN IN THIS LODGE AND SHE'S A GRANNY!
HA HA HA... HONDA, I THINK YOU GOT TRICKED BY A FOX, OR THAT WAS PROBABLY A SNOW WOMAN.*

*T/N: IN JAPAN THEY SAY THAT FOXES CAN CHANGE INTO PEOPLE IN ORDER TO TRICK THEM FOR FUN, AND SNOW WOMEN ARE A TYPE OF GHOST THAT COMES OUT IN THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS.


OH MY... YOU WERE LISTENING, GRANNY?
WELL, SORRY THAT I'M AN OLD GRANNY...
YOU MUST BE TIRED FROM PRACTICING, COME ON, DRINK!
THIRTY-THREE, THIRTY-FOUR...
GRANNY, I NEED MORE SAKE
The next day, we heard that someone bumped into a snow-covered snow mobile and died. By the time we got there, the body was all cleaned up...
I kept thinking about the winter moon as I got drunk with my sake...

IT'S THAT LADY'S HAT...!
There was blood on the snow that looked like thick flowers blooming.
I kept telling myself that that was not her blood—
I covered the blood with snow in a hurry as if I had something to hide.
I finally felt as if I put away the winter moon in the back of my thoughts—
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HONDA?!



Lamplight

キキ
ガ
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ザアー
LOOKS LIKE I'M LOST...
DAMN IT...
カチカチッ

ザアー
ズズ
ズズ
ザバ
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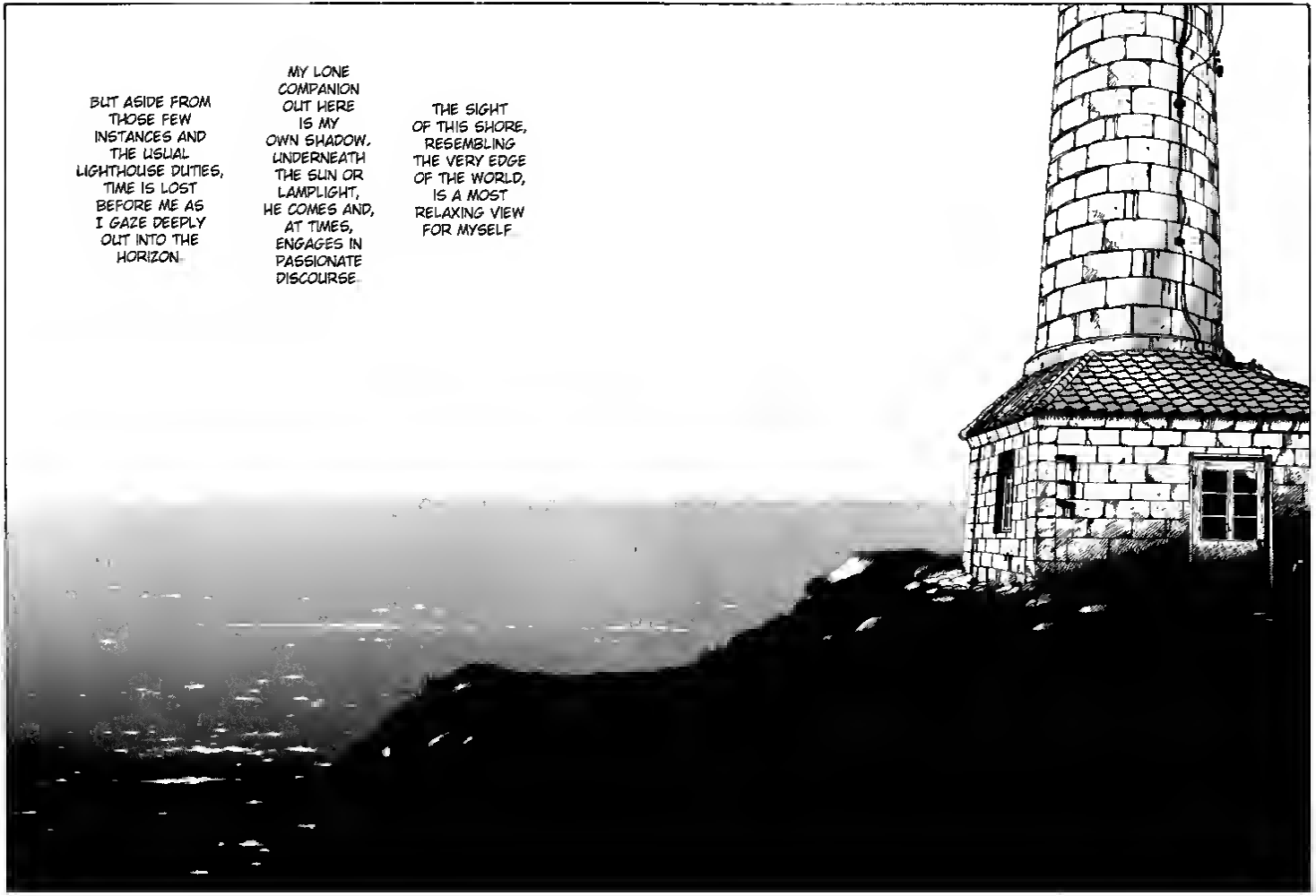
ゴー
ソソソソ

OPEN UP!
ドーン
AHHH
SLURP
MUNCH MUNCH

I REMEMBER BACK WHEN I WAS IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE'S GOT ANY FAMILY LIVING HERE WITH HIM. GUESS I'LL TEMPORARILY HIDE OUT HERE THEN.
BEATS BEING IN A PRISON, THAT'S FOR SURE!
ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WAS GOING BACK TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD
WITH ALL THE BOOZE, WOMEN, AND MONEY I COULD ENJOY...
ズドド
PROBABLY WITH SOME OTHER MAN I'D BET...
I WONDER HOW LILY'S DOING NOW

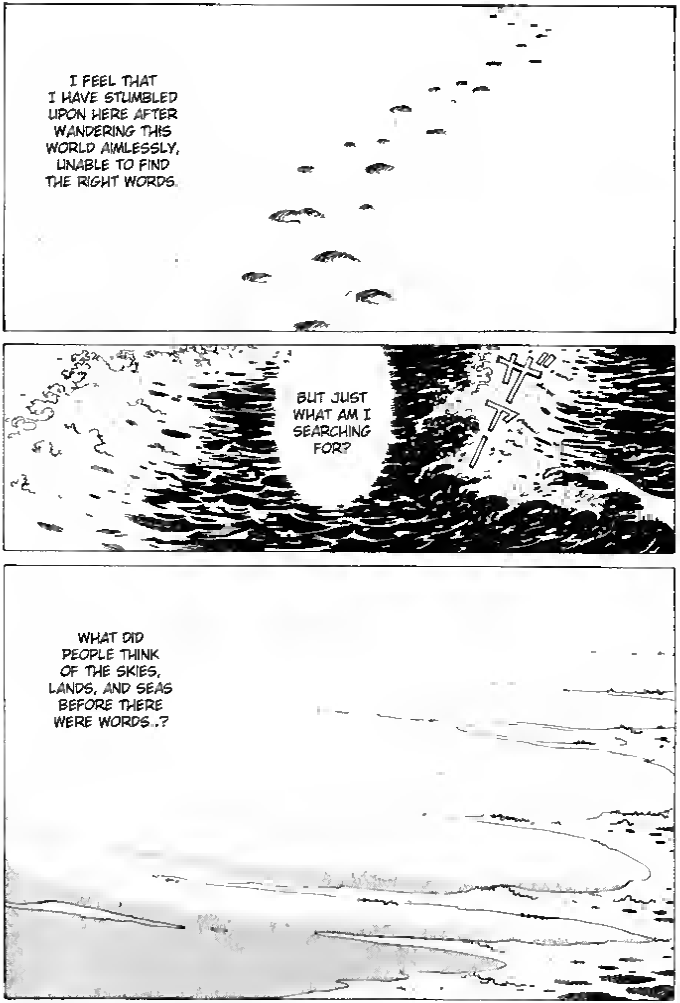
A DIARY ...? HMPH!
ゴトッ
...DESCEND GENTLY UPON ME
...BUT THEY REMAIN IN GRASP ONLY FOR AN INSTANT BEFORE MELTING AWAY INTO NOTHING-NESS...
BOTH SNOW-FLAKES AND LINES OF POETRY,
NOV. 29TH IT'S BEEN SNOWING ALL NIGHT

A DECADE OF CONFINED EXISTENCE
DEC. 3RD' IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT I'VE NOW TENDED THIS LIGHTHOUSE FOR OVER 10 YEARS
HAHA...
MONEY'S MORE LIKE IT, VANISHING WITHIN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!
COMPARING SNOWFLAKES TO POETRY!? AHAHAHA!
HAD I NOT THOUGHT THAT WAY, I'D BE WALLOWING IN THAT SWEET SCENT CALLED REGRET.
AFTER ALL, IT HAD BEEN MYSELF WHO WALKED ONE STEP AFTER ANOTHER UNTIL I REACHED HERE.
I FEEL AS IF IT WERE BOTH A COINCIDENTAL AND INEVITABLE RESULT.
I HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN TRAVELLING- NAY, AIMLESSLY WANDERING THIS WORLD LIKE A SHIP LOST OUT IN THE SEAS BEFORE REACHING THIS PLACE
HUH...

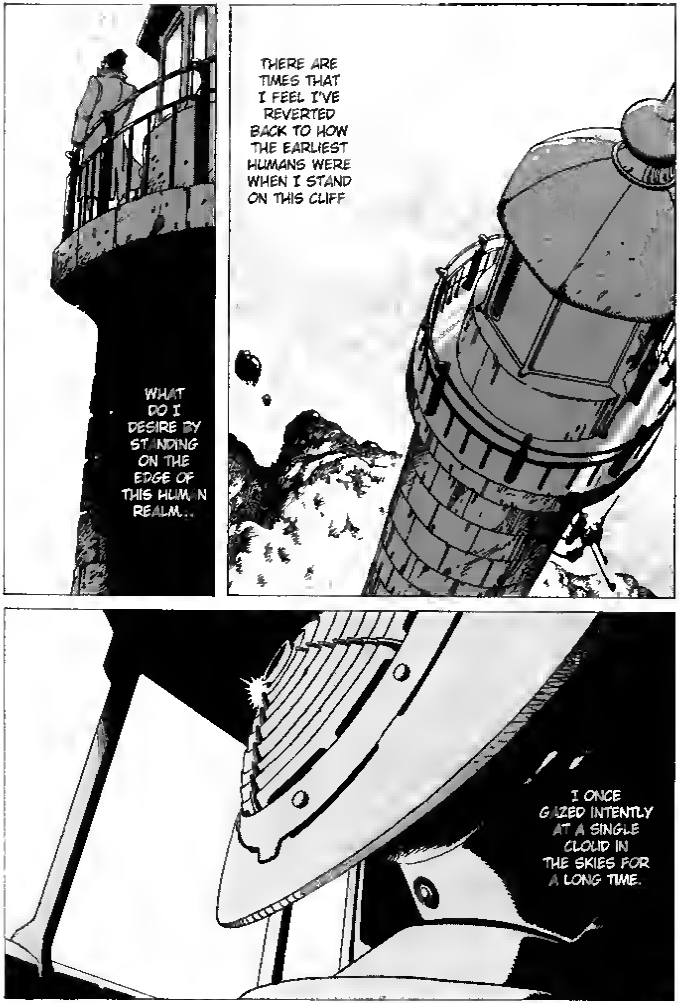

BUT ASIDE FROM THOSE FEW INSTANCES AND THE USUAL LIGHTHOUSE DUTIES, TIME IS LOST BEFORE ME AS I GAZE DEEPLY OUT INTO THE HORIZON
MY LONE COMPANION OUT HERE IS MY OWN SHADOW. UNDERNEATH THE SUN OR LAMPLIGHT, HE COMES AND, AT TIMES, ENGAGES IN PASSIONATE DISCOURSE
THE SIGHT OF THIS SHORE, RESEMBLING THE VERY EDGE OF THE WORLD, IS A MOST RELAXING VIEW FOR MYSELF

ドーン
I CAN FEEL A SORT OF PRIMAL FORCE BEING COMMUNICATED BY THOSE WAVES... JUST THE MERE DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION ITSELF DOESN'T EVEN BEGIN TO DESCRIBE THE ACTUAL EMOTIONS I FEEL DIRECTLY WITNESS IT! HOW COULD I NOT CLOSE MY MOUTH WHEN FACING SUCH DIFFICULTIES...?
HUMANS MAY OFTEN THINK WITH WORDS BUT I FIND EMOTIONS MORE EFFECTIVE FOR INSTANCE, CONSIDER THE VIOLENT CRASHING OF THE WAVES AGAINST THE CLIFFS.
THOUGH IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE, THERE ARE DAYS WHEN I EVEN FORGET HOW TO UTTER A SINGLE WORD.
ドドーン
THERE'S A SENSE OF SOME PRIMAL ENERGY BEING COMMUNICATED BY THOSE WAVES...

WORDS ARE NEITHER OF USE NOR NEED HERE. .
NO MATTER HOW ARTICULATE THE PERSON, ONE CANNOT SIMPLY DESCRIBE THE POWER OF THE MOON TO HOLD THE WATERS AT BAY NOR THE ABILITY OF RHYTHMS THAT MAKE US MOVE SUBCONSCIOUSLY.
ドゴーン

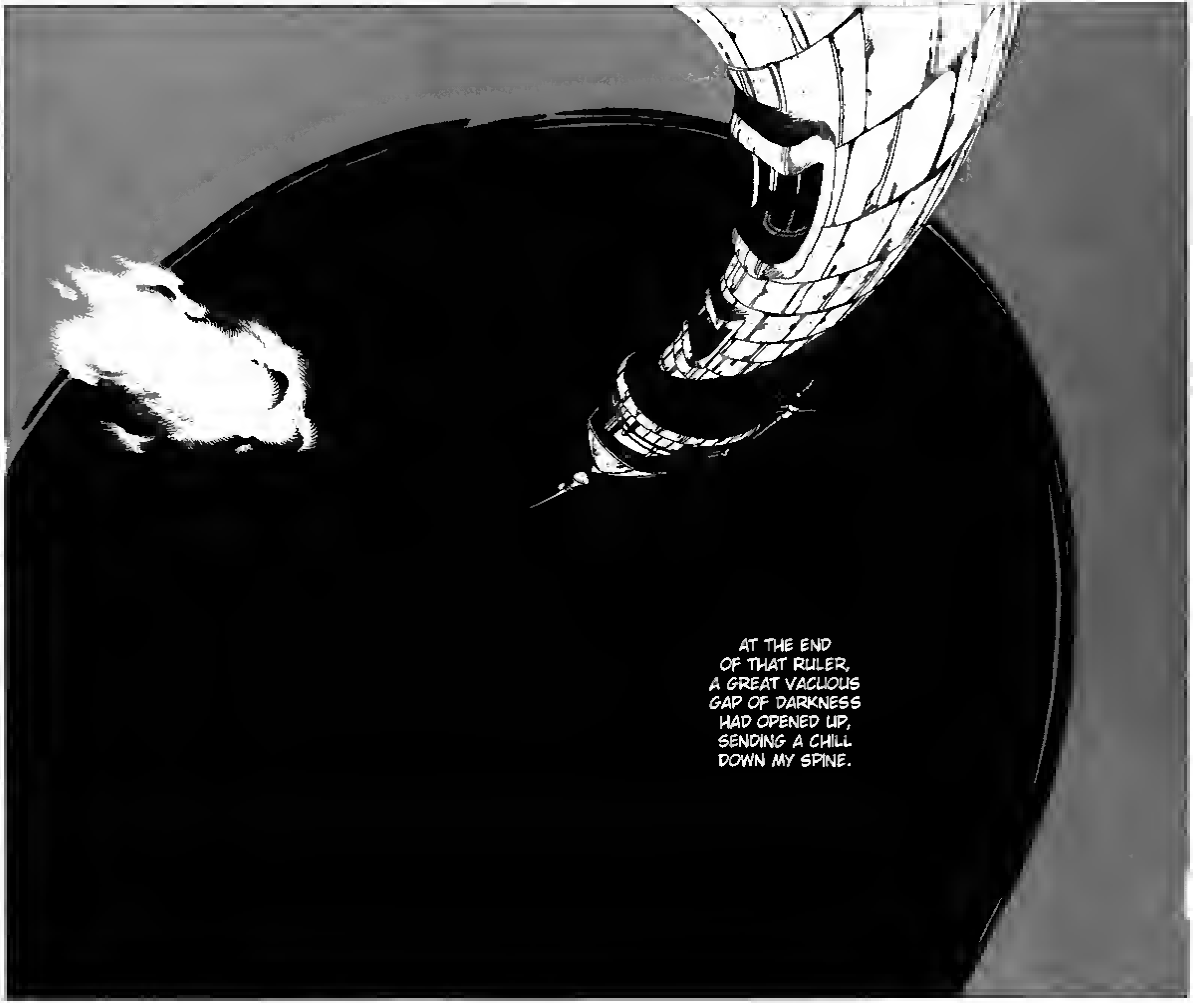

I FEEL THAT I HAVE STUMBLED UPON HERE AFTER WANDERING THIS WORLD AIMLESSLY, UNABLE TO FIND THE RIGHT WORDS.
BUT JUST WHAT AM I SEARCHING FOR?
WHAT DID PEOPLE THINK OF THE SKIES, LANDS, AND SEAS BEFORE THERE WERE WORDS..?

WHAT DID
THEY MAKE OF THE
ALL-ENCOMPASSING SUN,
THE RUMBLING OF THE LANDS,
AND THE CEASELESS CRASHING
OF THE WAVES...


WHAT DO I DESIRE BY STANDING ON THE EDGE OF THIS HUMAN REALM...
THERE ARE TIMES THAT I FEEL I'VE REVERTED BACK TO HOW THE EARLIEST HUMANS WERE WHEN I STAND ON THIS CLIFF
I ONCE GAZED INTENTLY AT A SINGLE CLOUD IN THE SKIES FOR A LONG TIME.

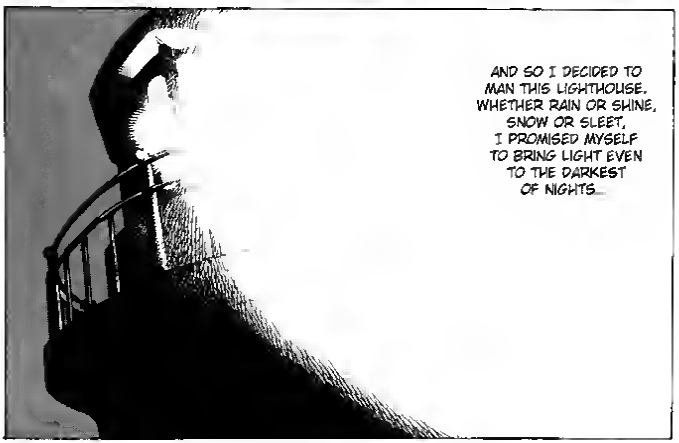
!
ALL OF A SUDDEN, A SEAGULL HAPPENED TO COME BETWEEN MY VIEW OF THE CLOUD.
AT THAT INSTANT, I FELT AS IF I HAD PERCEIVED THE MOST ODDEST THING.
LIKE THE LINES AN ARTIST DRAWS TO MARK PERSPECTIVE, I COULD SEE A GREAT RULER STRETCHING OUT FROM ME, THROUGH THE SEAGULL AND CLOUDS, ALL THE WAY INTO THE DEEP BLUE SKY.
AND THE NUMBERS MARKING THIS RULER MADE THE SOUND OF A TICKING CLOCK, BUT THEY WERE SOON SCATTERED BY THE WIND.

BUT WITHIN THE BLINK OF MY EYES, THE SKIES HAD REVERTED TO THEIR USUAL SCENERY...


AT THE END OF THAT RULER, A GREAT VACUOUS GAP OF DARKNESS HAD OPENED UP, SENDING A CHILL DOWN MY SPINE.

THOUGH I WASN'T SURE IF I HAD SEEN WHAT I THOUGHT I HAD SAW, IT NONETHELESS TRIGGERED AN EPIPHANY. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I REALIZED HOW DREARY, DULL, AND EVEN TERRIFYING IT WOULD BE IF THE SUN WERE TO DISAPPEAR. NO LONGER COULD ANYONE BASK IN ITS KIND WARM RAYS OF LIGHT THAT PRODUCED THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PURPLE SUNRISE, GOLDEN AFTERNOON, AND CRIMSON SUNSET THAT WE ALL TOOK FOR GRANTED.

WHAT IF THE PITCH BLACK DARKNESS WERE THE ONLY CERTAINTY IN OUR LIVES..?


AND SO I DECIDED TO MAN THIS LIGHTHOUSE. WHETHER RAIN OR SHINE, SNOW OR SLEET, I PROMISED MYSELF TO BRING LIGHT EVEN TO THE DARKEST OF NIGHTS...

BUT WHATEVER THE CASE, I SHALL BRIGHTEN UP THE WORLD OF THE PEOPLE HER WITH MY 2 MILLION-CANDELA LIGHT, ARTIFICIAL AS IT MAY BE.

I FEEL I'VE FOUND A PLACE OF TRUE COMFORT AT LAST.

FOR THE SAILORS RETURNING TO THE NEARBY PORT, SOME WILL THINK OF IT AS THE GAZE OF A BEAUTIFUL LADY WATCHING OVER THEM, WHILE OTHERS WILL THINK NO MORE OF IT THAN SOMETHING TO SHINE ON THEIR DINNER TABLES.

HAHA!

BEER! MORE BEER, I SAY! AHAHA!

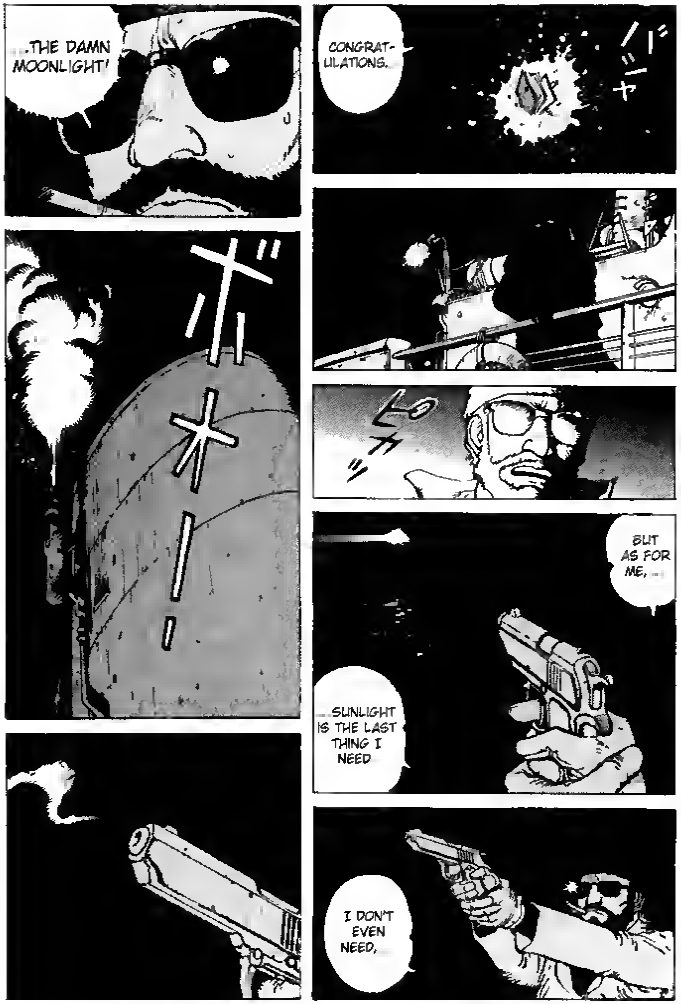
LET'S DANCE UNTIL THE SUN COMES UP!

MNN

THE INVESTIGATION IS ONGOING BUT THE ESCAPED PRISONER HAS YET TO BE FOUND.

HMPH!!

TRYING TO WRAP THE WORLD'S DARKNESS WITH YOUR POETICAL MUMBO JUMBO? WELL WHATEVER MADE YA HAPPY.


...THE DAMN MOONLIGHT!
CONGRAT-ULATIONS.
BUT AS FOR ME, ...
...SUNLIGHT IS THE LAST THING I NEED
I DON'T EVEN NEED,

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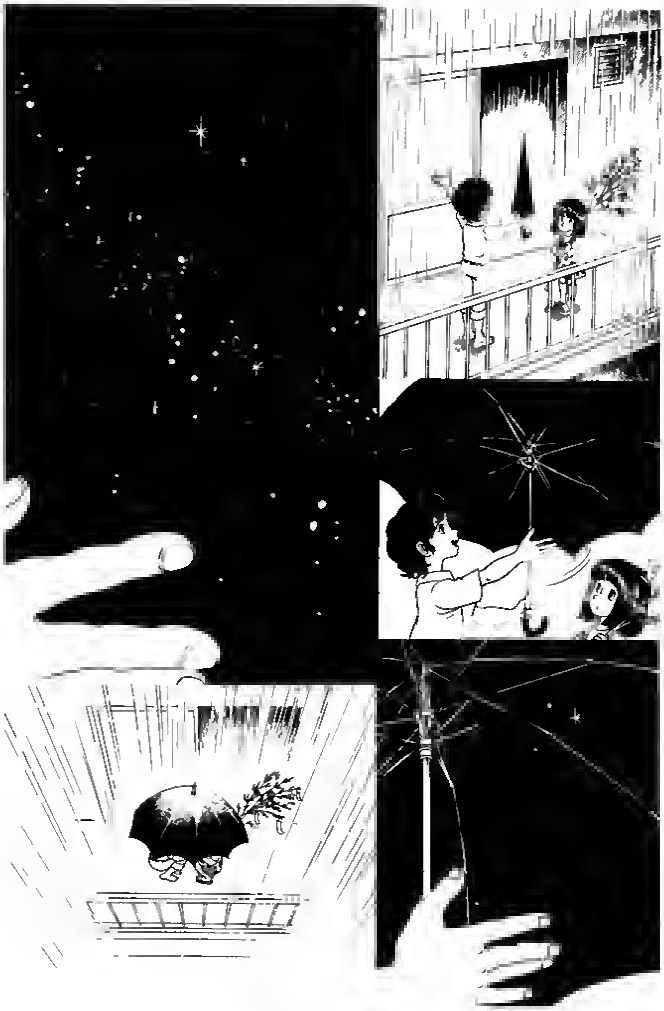
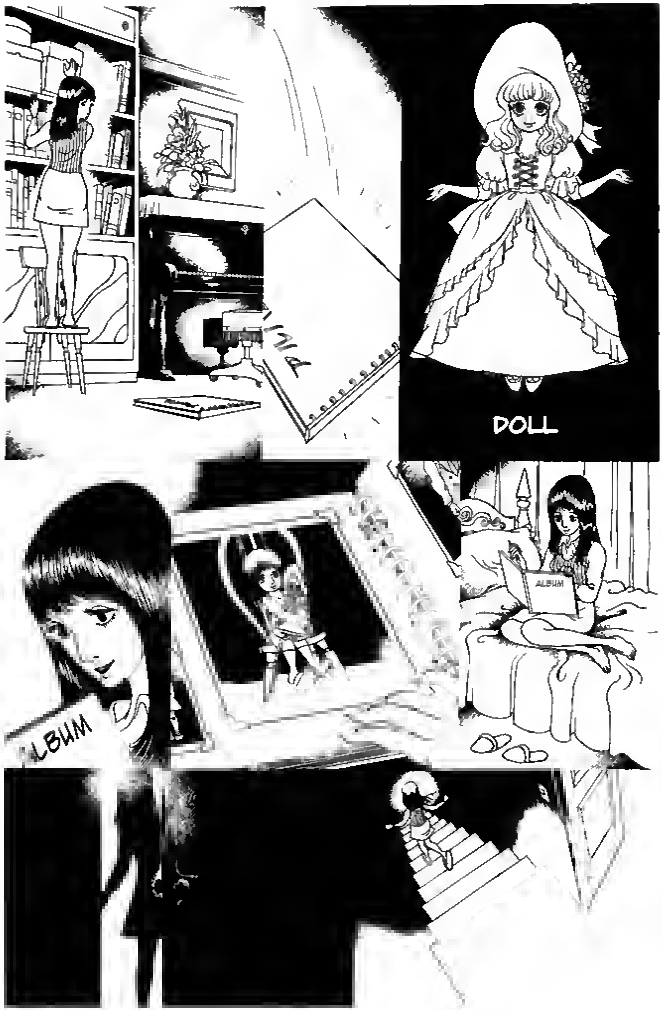
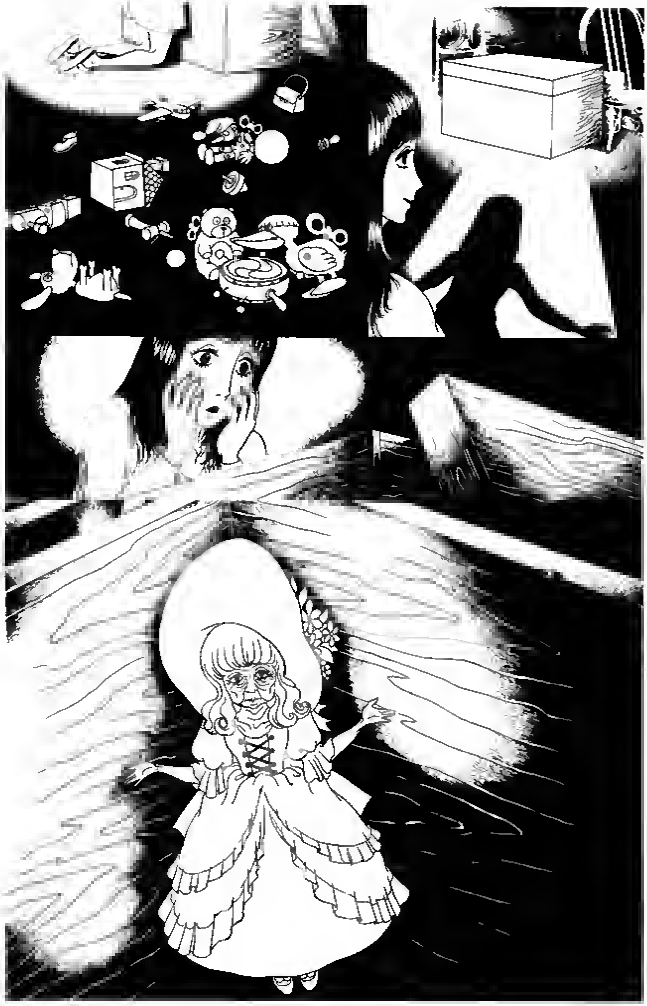
SHOES

RAIN
MILKY
DAIRY



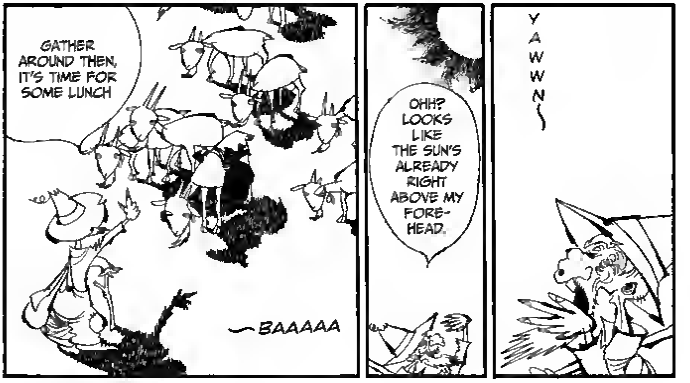

DOLL
ALBUM
ALBUM

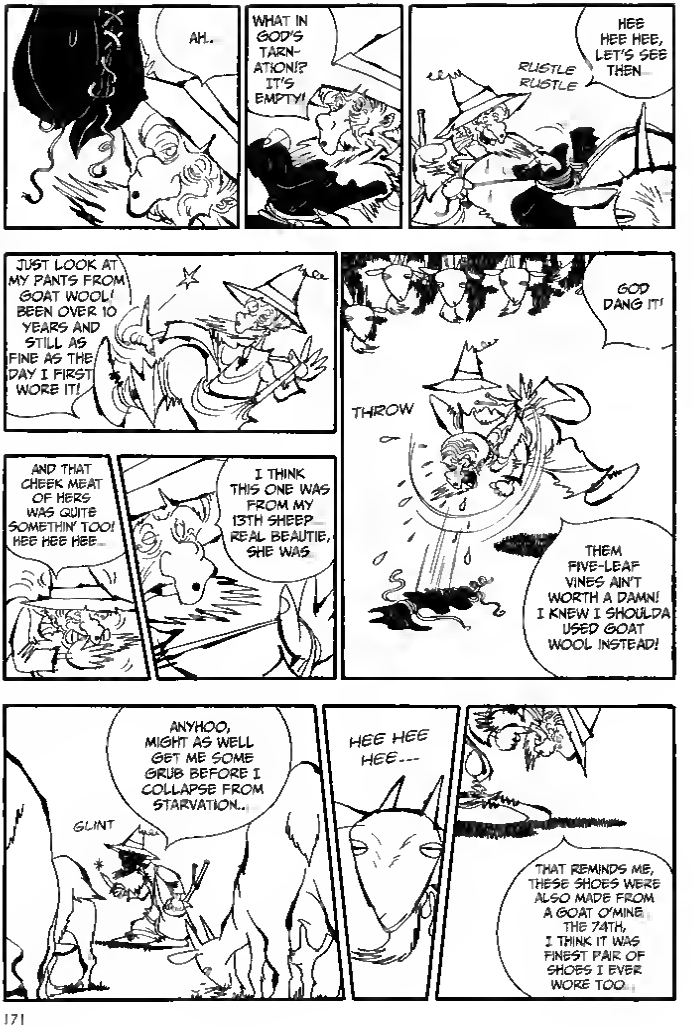


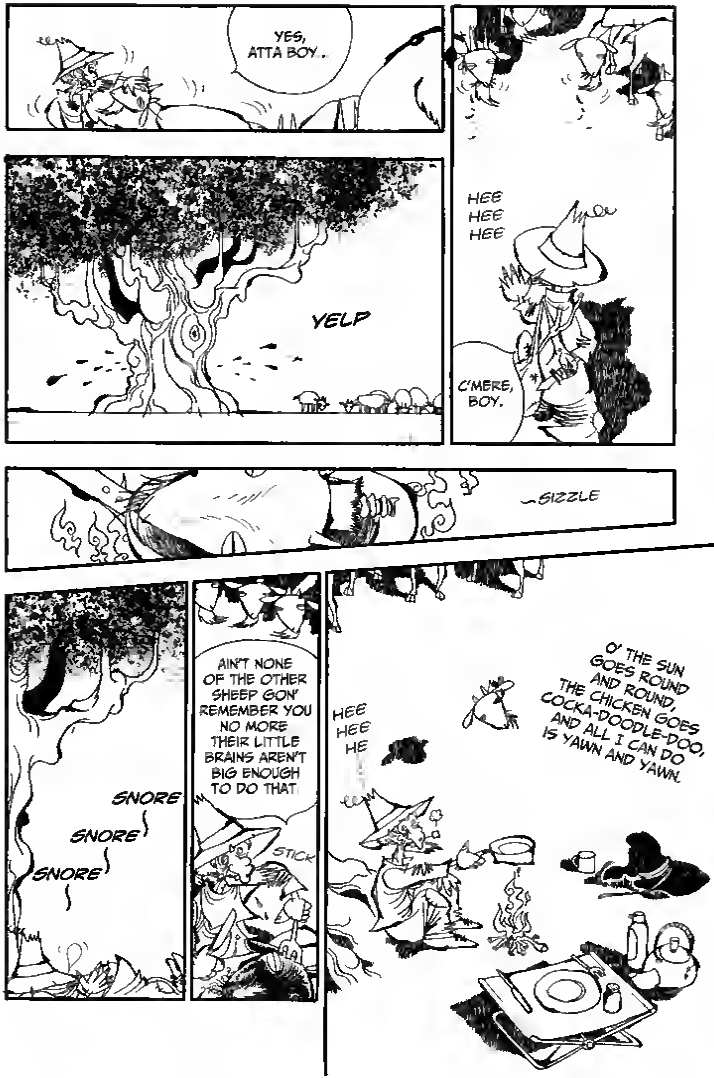
SNOW

STRAWBERRY CITY

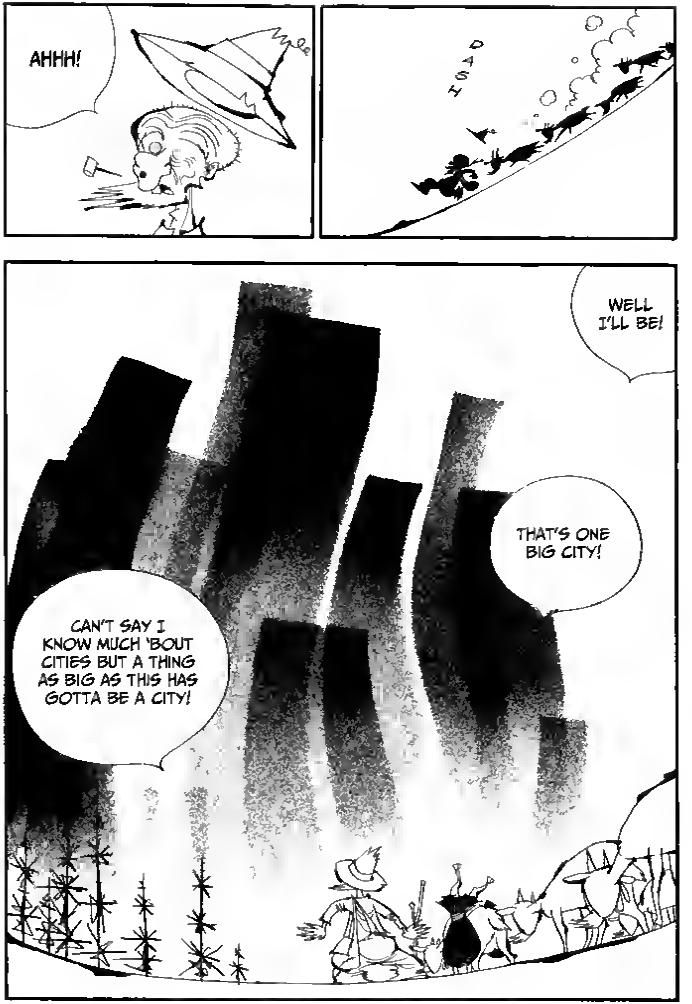
O' THE OLD FOOL TAKES HIS FLOCK OF 9 GOATS AND AMBLES HERE AND THERE, BACK AND FORTH, ROADS OR NOT.

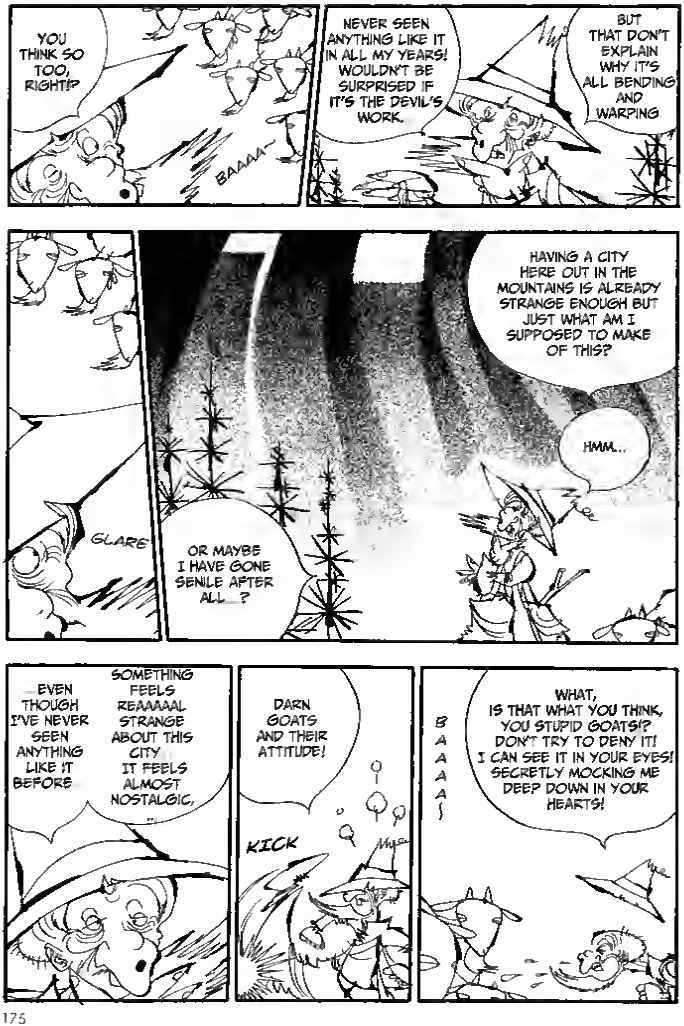

GATHER AROUND THEN, IT'S TIME FOR SOME LUNCH
BAAAAA
OHH? LOOKS LIKE THE SUN'S ALREADY RIGHT ABOVE MY FORE-HEAD.
YAWWN

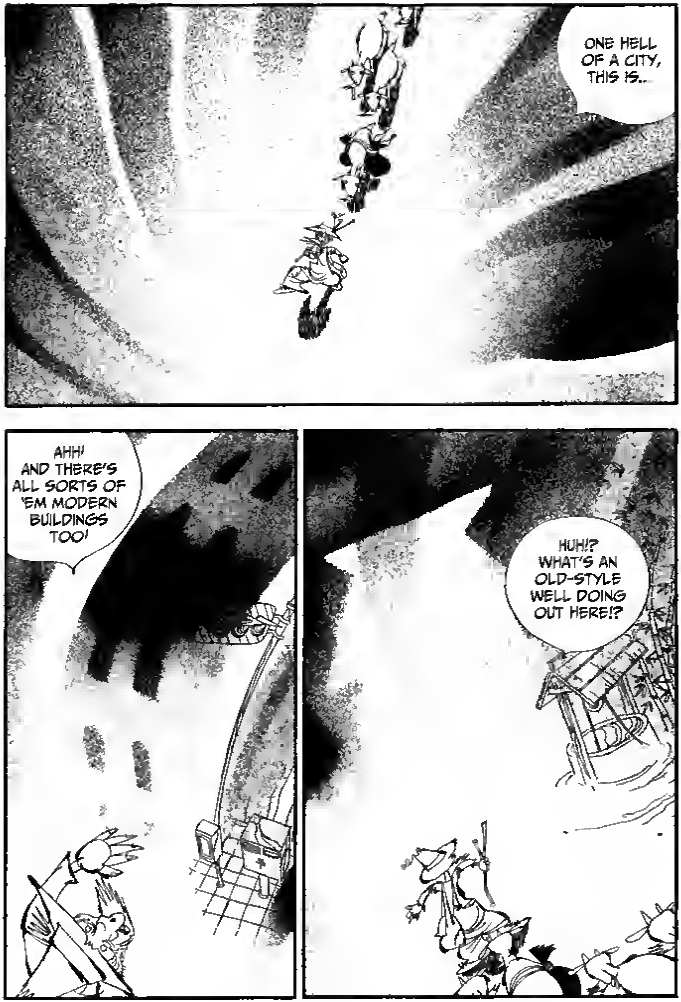

AH..
WHAT IN GOD'S TARN-ATION!? IT'S EMPTY!
RUSTLE RUSTLE
HEE HEE HEE, LET'S SEE THEN..
JUST LOOK AT MY PANTS FROM GOAT WOOL! BEEN OVER 10 YEARS AND STILL AS FINE AS THE DAY I FIRST WORE IT!
GOD DANG IT!
THROW
AND THAT CHEEK MEAT OF HERS WAS QUITE SOMETHIN' TOO! HEE HEE HEE..
I THINK THIS ONE WAS FROM MY 13TH SHEEP.. REAL BEAUTIE, SHE WAS
THEM FIVE-LEAF VINES AIN'T WORTH A DAMN! I KNEW I SHOULDA USED GOAT WOOL INSTEAD!
ANYHOO, MIGHT AS WELL GET ME SOME GRUB BEFORE I COLLAPSE FROM STARVATION..
GLINT
HEE HEE HEE---
THAT REMINDS ME, THESE SHOES WERE ALSO MADE FROM A GOAT O'MINE.. THE 74TH, I THINK IT WAS FINEST PAIR OF SHOES I EVER WORE TOO..

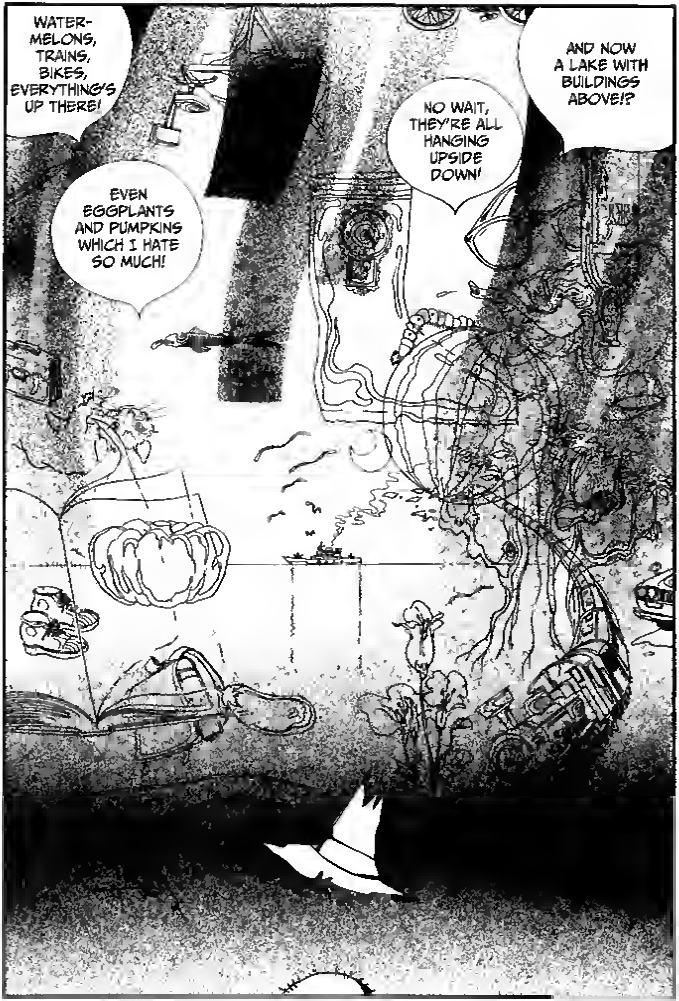

YES, ATTA BOY.
YELP
HEE HEE HEE
C'MERE, BOY.
—SIZZLE
O' THE SUN GOES ROUND AND ROUND, THE CHICKEN GOES COCKA-DOODLE-DOO, AND ALL I CAN DO IS YAWN AND YAWN.
HEE HEE HE
AIN'T NONE OF THE OTHER SHEEP GON' REMEMBER YOU NO MORE THEIR LITTLE BRAINS AREN'T BIG ENOUGH TO DO THAT.
STICK
SNORE
SNORE
SNORE

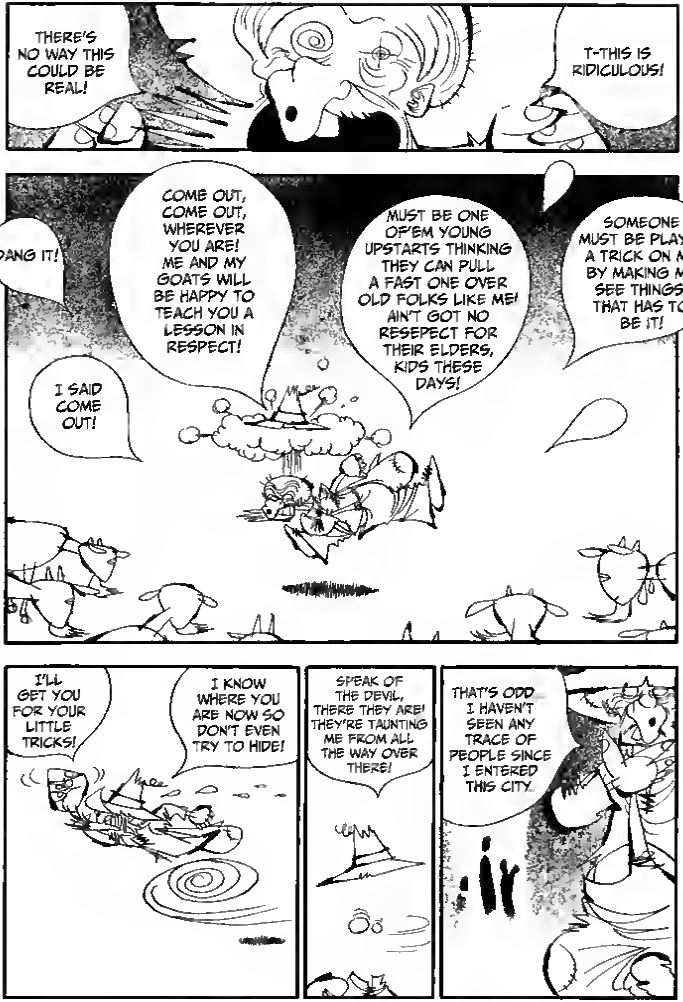
THWACK
EZZZ
LAND
YAWWWN
THAT THING YONDER LOOKS MIGHTY STRANGE NOW ALMOST AS IF IT'S BENDING INTO ALL SORTS OF SHAPES
IT CAN'T BE FROM THE GOAT MEAT I JUST ATE NOW, COULD IT...?
O' THE OLD FOOL TAKES HIS FLOCK OF 8 GOATS AND AMBLES HERE AND THERE, BACK AND FORTH, ROADS OR NOT
THE SUN SHINES, THE RIVERS FLOW, AND THE MOUNTAIN SPREADS ALL FOR ME AND MY SAKE ONLY.


AHHH!
DASH
WELL I'LL BE!
THAT'S ONE BIG CITY!
CAN'T SAY I KNOW MUCH 'BOUT CITIES BUT A THING AS BIG AS THIS HAS GOTTA BE A CITY!


YOU THINK SO TOO, RIGHT!?
BAAAA~
NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT IN ALL MY YEARS! WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF IT'S THE DEVIL'S WORK.
BUT THAT DON'T EXPLAIN WHY IT'S ALL BENDING AND WARPING
GLARE
OR MAYBE I HAVE GONE SENILE AFTER ALL...?
HMM...
HAVING A CITY HERE OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS IS ALREADY STRANGE ENOUGH BUT JUST WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO MAKE OF THIS?
...EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE
SOMETHING FEELS REAAAAAL STRANGE ABOUT THIS CITY... IT FEELS ALMOST NOSTALGIC, ...
DARN GOATS AND THEIR ATTITUDE!
KICK
BAAAA!
WHAT, IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK, YOU STUPID GOATS!? DON'T TRY TO DENY IT! I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR EYES! SECRETLY MOCKING ME DEEP DOWN IN YOUR HEARTS!


ONE HELL OF A CITY, THIS IS...
AHH! AND THERE'S ALL SORTS OF 'EM MODERN BUILDINGS TOO!
HUH!? WHAT'S AN OLD-STYLE WELL DOING OUT HERE!?


WATER-MELONS, TRAINS, BIKES, EVERYTHING'S UP THERE!
EVEN EGGPLANTS AND PUMPKINS WHICH I HATE SO MUCH!
NO WAIT, THEY'RE ALL HANGING UPSIDE DOWN!
AND NOW A LAKE WITH BUILDINGS ABOVE!?


THERE'S NO WAY THIS COULD BE REAL!
T-THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
DANG IT!
COME OUT, COME OUT, WHEREVER YOU ARE! ME AND MY GOATS WILL BE HAPPY TO TEACH YOU A LESSON IN RESPECT!
MUST BE ONE OF'EM YOUNG UPSTARTS THINKING THEY CAN PULL A FAST ONE OVER OLD FOLKS LIKE ME! AIN'T GOT NO RESEPECT FOR THEIR ELDERS, KIDS THESE DAYS!
SOMEONE MUST BE PLAYIN' A TRICK ON ME BY MAKING ME SEE THINGS! THAT HAS TO BE IT!
I SAID COME OUT!
I'LL GET YOU FOR YOUR LITTLE TRICKS!
I KNOW WHERE YOU ARE NOW SO DON'T EVEN TRY TO HIDE!
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL, THERE THEY ARE! THEY'RE TAUNTING ME FROM ALL THE WAY OVER THERE!
THAT'S ODD. I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY TRACE OF PEOPLE SINCE I ENTERED THIS CITY.
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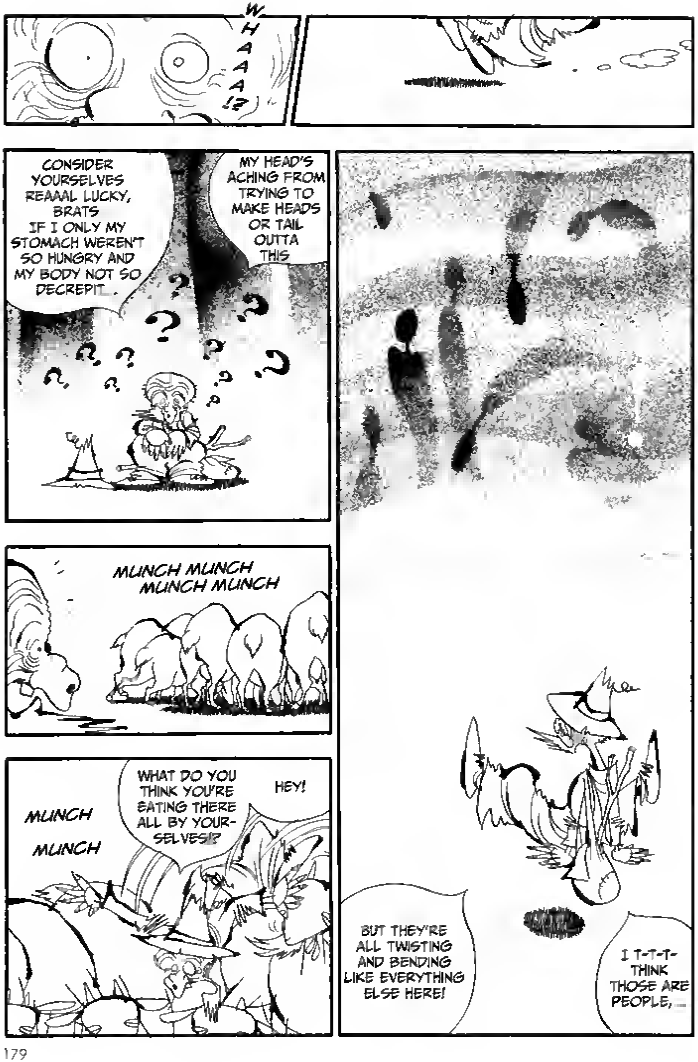
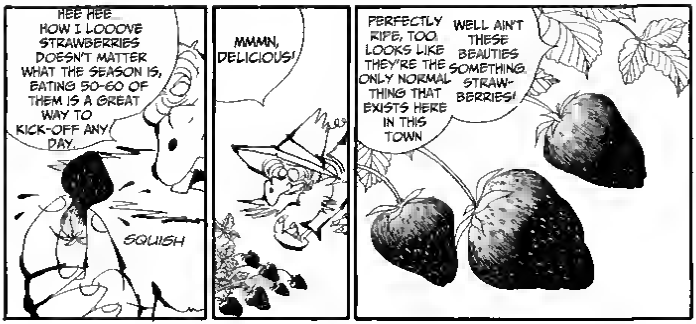
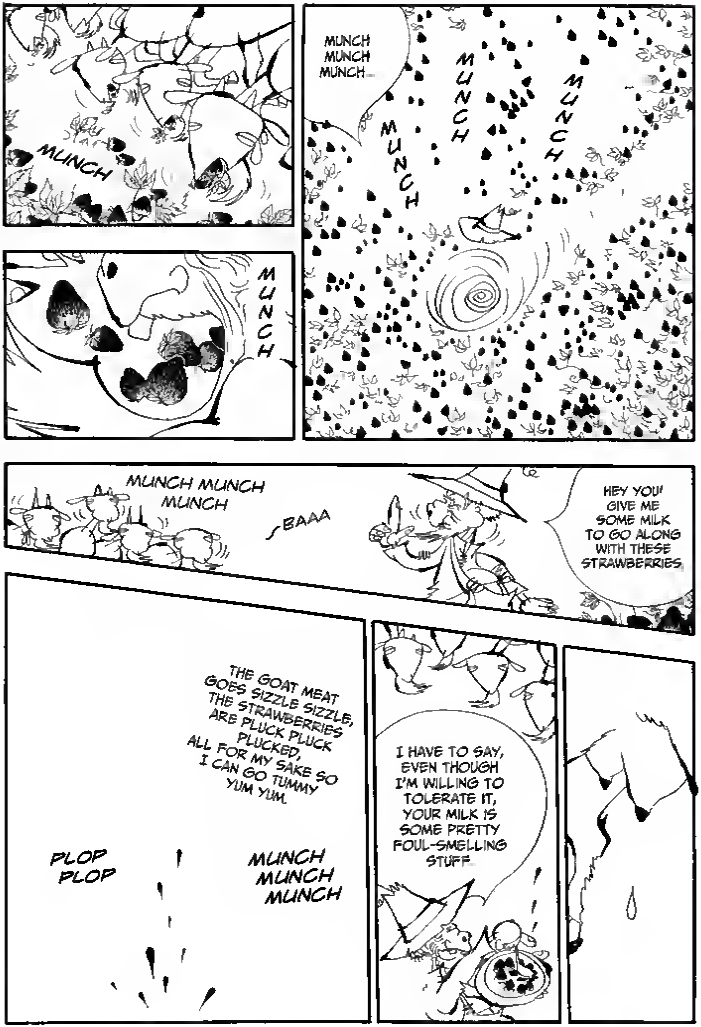

WHAAAA!?
CONSIDER YOURSELVES REAAAL LUCKY, BRATS IF I ONLY MY STOMACH WEREN'T SO HUNGRY AND MY BODY NOT SO DECREPIT...
MY HEAD'S ACHING FROM TRYING TO MAKE HEADS OR TAIL OUTTA THIS
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
MUNCH MUNCH
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE EATING THERE ALL BY YOURSELVES!?
HEY!
BUT THEY'RE ALL TWISTING AND BENDING LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE HERE!
I T-T-T-THINK THOSE ARE PEOPLE,...


HEE HEE... HOW I LOOOVE STRAWBERRIES DOESN'T MATTER WHAT THE SEASON IS, EATING 50-60 OF THEM IS A GREAT WAY TO KICK-OFF ANY DAY.
SQUISH
MMMN, DELICIOUS!
PERFECTLY RIPE, TOO. LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE THE ONLY NORMAL THING THAT EXISTS HERE IN THIS TOWN
WELL AIN'T THESE BEAUTIES SOMETHING. STRAW-BERRIES!

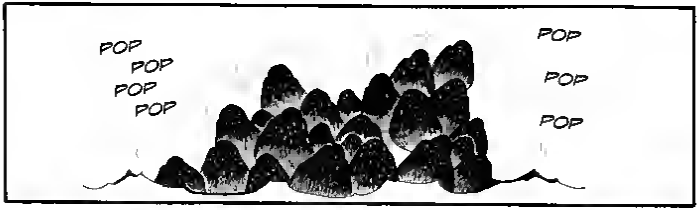
I'M YOUR MASTER AND IT'S ONLY RIGHT THE MASTER SHOULD ALWAYS GET THE BIGGER SHARE HEE HEE HEE...
DON'T YOU GOATS DARE EAT MORE OF THESE STRAW-BERRIES THAN ME NOW
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S IN SPITE OF THIS TOWN'S STRANGENESS OR BECAUSE OF IT, BUT THESE STRAWBERRIES ARE THE BEST I'VE EVER HAD!

LOOK AT THIS GINORMOUS FIELD OF STRAW-BERRIES!
HOLY MOLY!


MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH MUNCH
MUNCH
BAAA
HEY YOU! GIVE ME SOME MILK TO GO ALONG WITH THESE STRAWBERRIES.
THE GOAT MEAT GOES SIZZLE SIZZLE, THE STRAWBERRIES ARE PLUCK PLUCK PLUCKED, ALL FOR MY SAKE SO I CAN GO TUMMY YUM YUM.
PLOP PLOP
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
I HAVE TO SAY, EVEN THOUGH I'M WILLING TO TOLERATE IT, YOUR MILK IS SOME PRETTY FOUL-SMELLING STUFF.

HEE HEE HEE
HEE HEE HEE
BURP!!
HIC!
!
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
POP POP
POP POP POP
POP

POP POP
POP
POP
POP


POP
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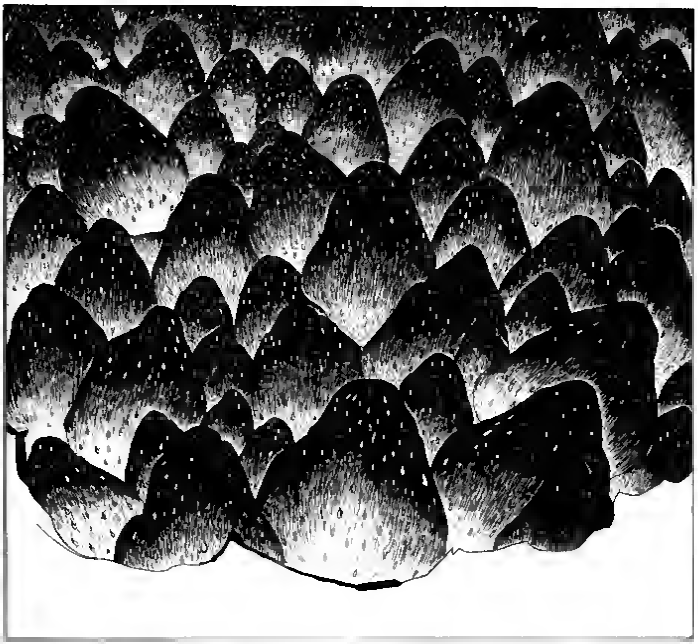

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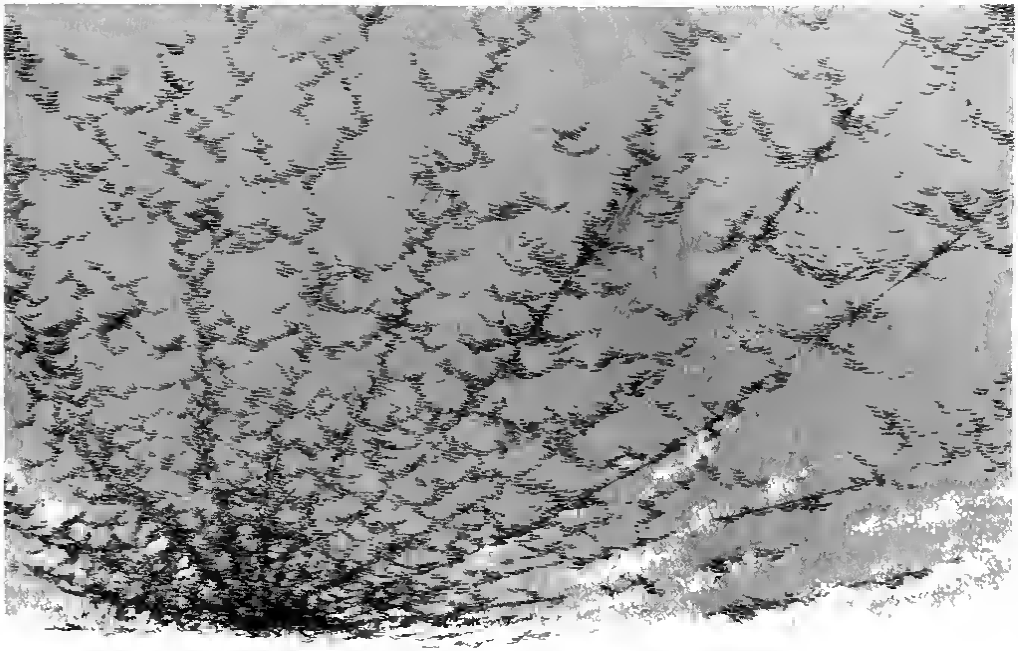
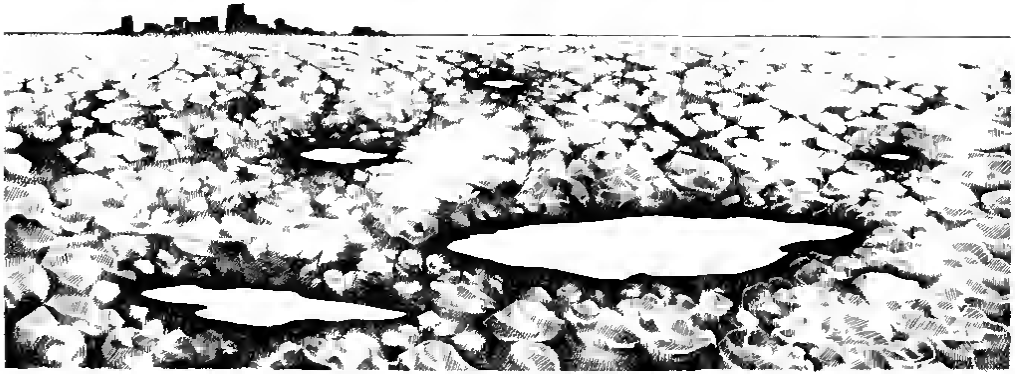
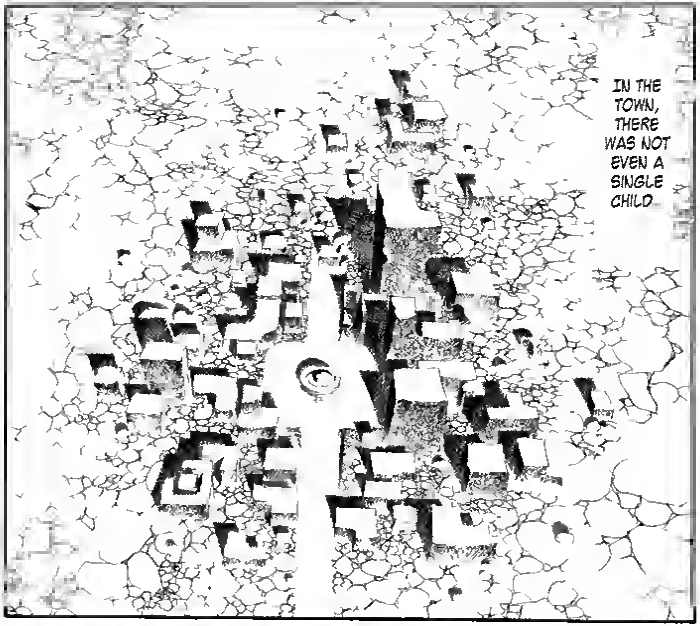
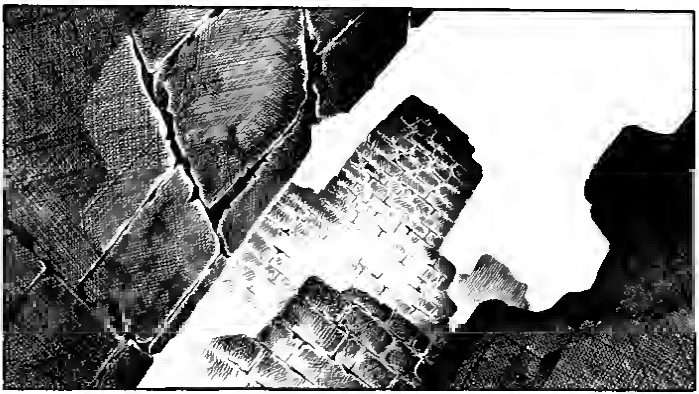
CHILD OF THE FISH



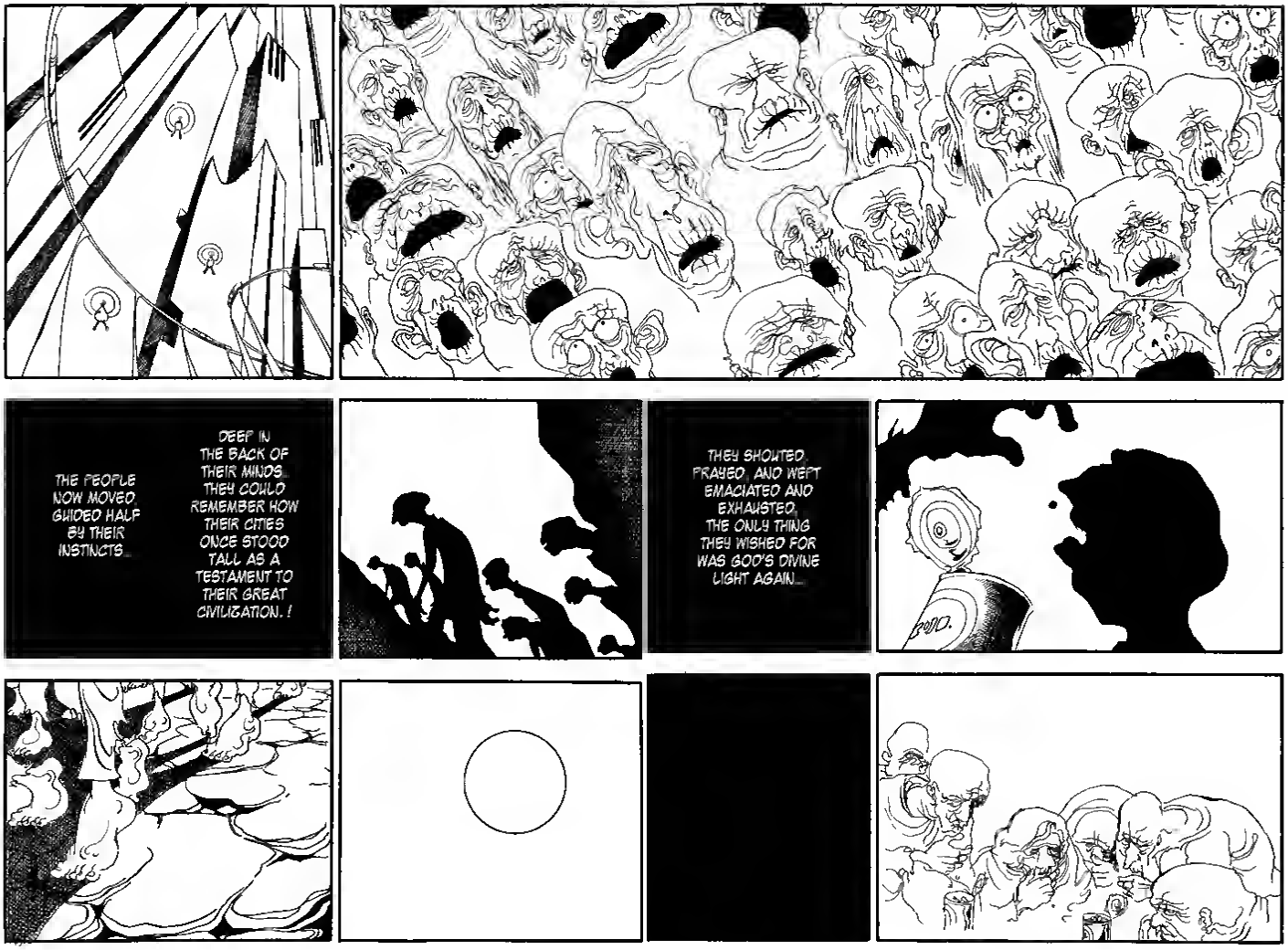


THE RAIN STOPPED AND THE ATMOSPHERE BECAME VERY COLD, BRINGING EVERYTHING TO A GREAT CHILL. NOBODY COULD TELL WHAT SEASON IT WAS ANYMORE...


IN THE TOWN, THERE WAS NOT EVEN A SINGLE CHILD.



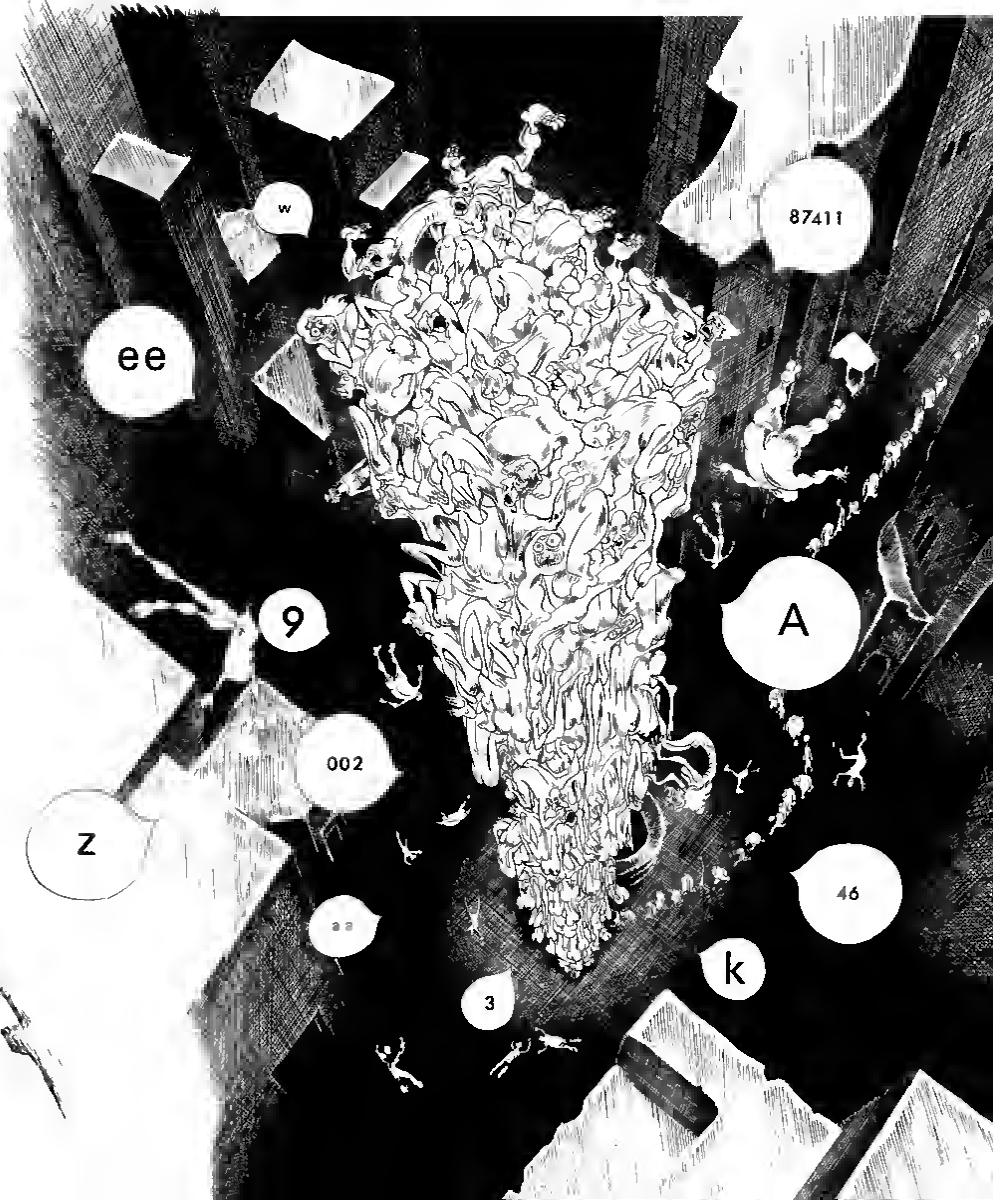
FROM UNDERNEATH THE RUBBLES WHICH USED TO BE BUILDINGS, THE WRINKLED AND WEATHERED FACE OF THE OLD COULD BE SEEN PEEKING OUTSIDE. THEY HAD ALL WAITED FOR YEARS AND YEARS FOR THE WORLD TO RETURN BACK TO A GOLDEN AGE...


THEY SHOUTED, PRAYED, AND WEPT EMACIATED AND EXHAUSTED. THE ONLY THING THEY WISHED FOR WAS GOD'S DIVINE LIGHT AGAIN...
DEEP IN THE BACK OF THEIR MINDS, THEY COULD REMEMBER HOW THEIR CITIES ONCE STOOD TALL AS A TESTAMENT TO THEIR GREAT CIVILIZATION. !
THE PEOPLE NOW MOVED, GUIDED HALF BY THEIR INSTINCTS...
GOD.

THEY PACKED THEMSELVES SO TIGHTLY AS TO LEAVE NO GAPS. AND IN THIS TOWER, LIKE INSECTS BUZZING AND CHIRPING, THE PEOPLE WOULD SHOUT OUT EVERY UTTERANCE THEIR VOCAL CHORDS COULD MANAGE, ALL THROUGHOUT THE DAY...

WITH SUNRISE, THEY WOULD CREEP OUT FROM THE NOOKS AND CRANNIES OF THE RUBBLE AND BEGIN MAKING A VAST HUMAN TOWER ONLY THE SETTING OF THE SUN WOULD GIVE THEM A BRIEF RESPITE FROM REPEATING THIS ACT OVER AND OVER.

HOW LONG HAD THEY DONE THIS FOR..?



THE GOLDEN ORB IN THE SKY THAT HAD ENCOURAGED SUCH AN ENDEAVOUR TURNED DEEP-ORANGE AND THE PEOPLE ENTRUSTED THEIR BODIES TO THE BASK OF ITS WARM GLOW...
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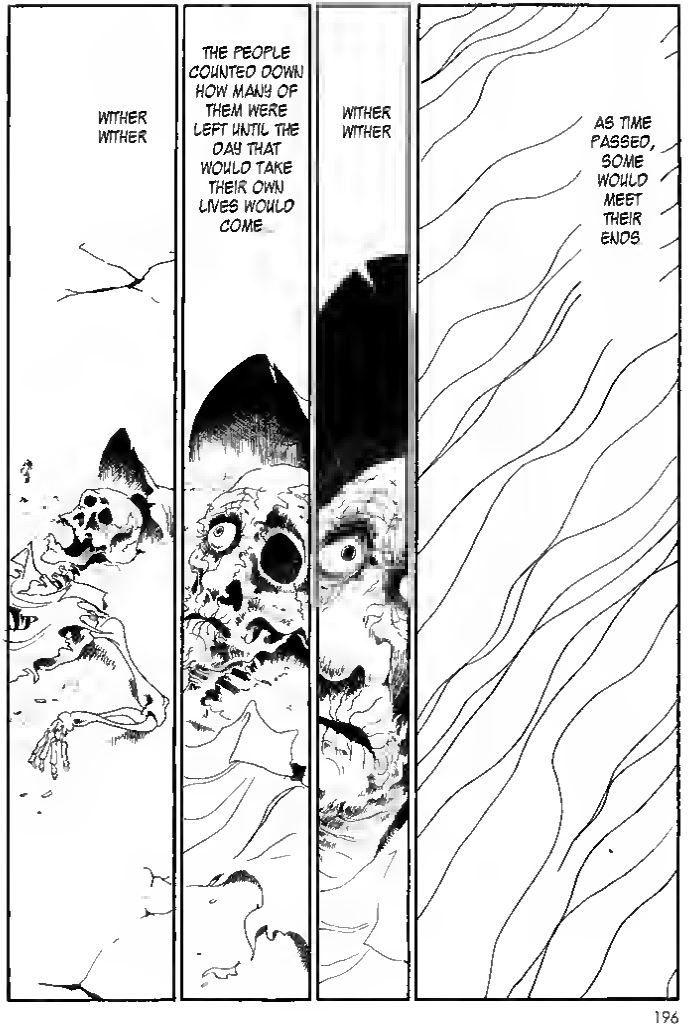
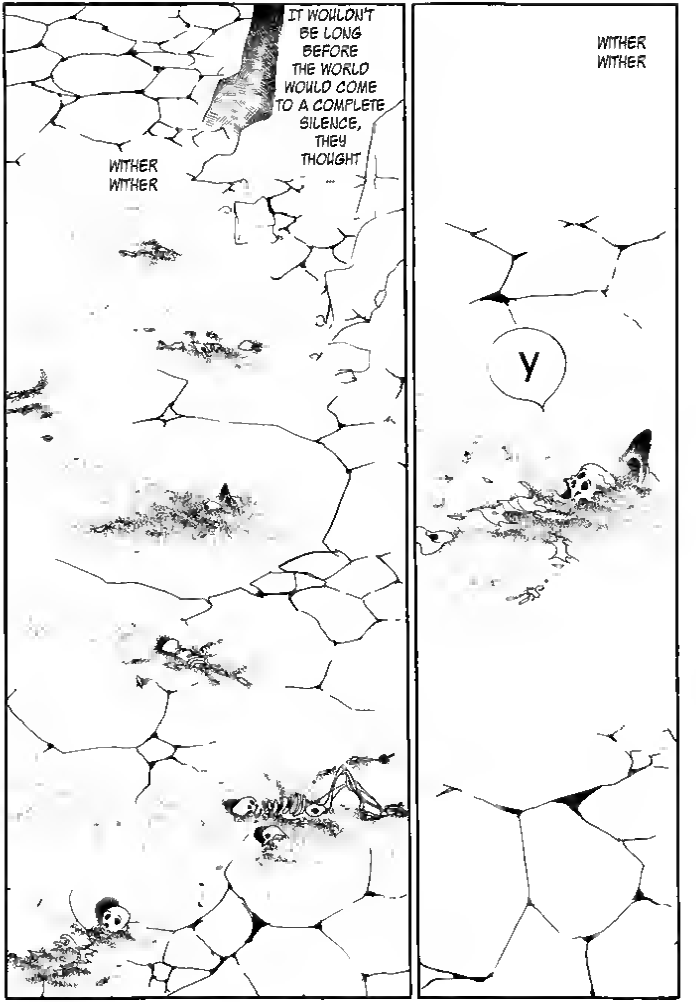
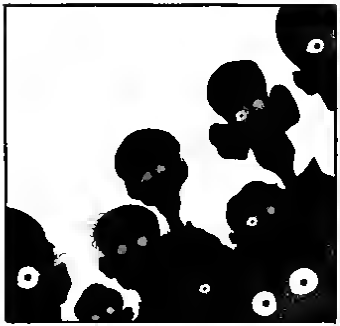

WITHER
WITHER
THE PEOPLE COUNTED DOWN HOW MANY OF THEM WERE LEFT UNTIL THE DAY THAT WOULD TAKE THEIR OWN LIVES WOULD COME...
WITHER
WITHER
AS TIME PASSED, SOME WOULD MEET THEIR ENDS


IT WOULDN'T BE LONG BEFORE THE WORLD WOULD COME TO A COMPLETE SILENCE, THEY THOUGHT ...
WITHER WITHER
WITHER WITHER
y

BUT ONE DAY...

...A NEWBORN BABY SUDDENLY APPEARED, CAUSING A GREAT SHOCK AMONGST THE FEW SURVIVORS

HE HAD APPEARED FROM THE CRACK IN THE ASPHALT OF THE TOWN SQUARE HOW MANY YEARS, HOW MANY DECADES HAD IT BEEN SINCE THEY WITNESSED NEW LIFE! A NEW SUCCESSOR!



THEY ALL DOUBTED WHAT WAS BEFORE THEIR EYES.

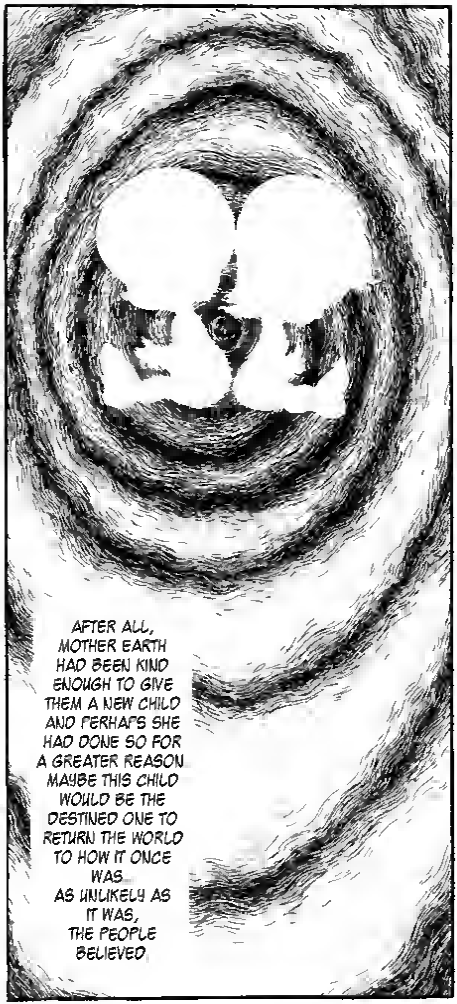
BUT ONCE THEY HAD ACCEPTED THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION, EUPHORIA SWEPT AMONG THEM.

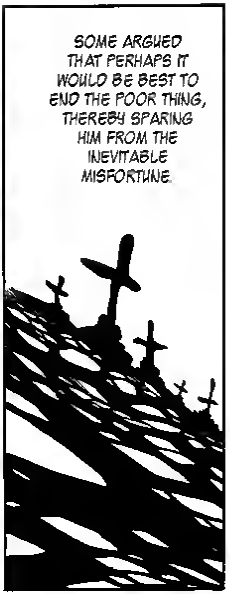
BUT THAT EUPHORIA TOO, WAS THEN REPLACED BY DEEP MELANCHOLY. THEY REGRETTED THAT THE TERRIBLE FUTURE THIS CHILD WOULD HAVE TO LIVE THROUGH.

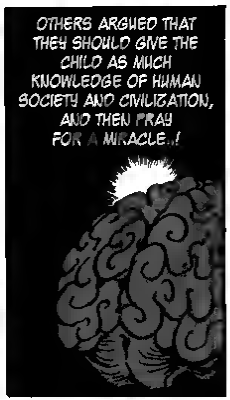
SUCH A LONELY EXISTENCE HE WOULD LIVE... UNTIL HIS VERY LAST DAY ON THIS WORLD... IF ONLY HE HAD COME AT AN EARLIER AGE..

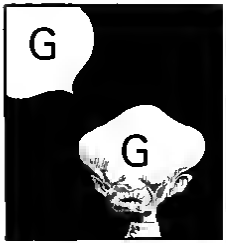
HIS EYES WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO SEE ASIDE FROM THE ENDLESSLY STRETCHING DREARY HORIZON.. HIS EARS WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO HEAR, AND HIS VOICE WILL FADE AWAY INTO THE EVER-SURROUNDING DREARY SILENCE..

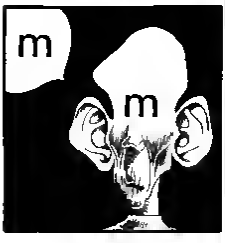
ONCE ALL OF THEM SUCCUMBED TO OLD AGE, THE CHILD WOULD HAVE TO LIVE A WRETCHED LONELY EXISTENTE..!

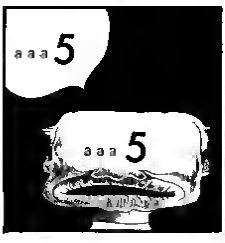

AFTER ALL, MOTHER EARTH HAD BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO GIVE THEM A NEW CHILD AND PERHAPS SHE HAD DONE SO FOR A GREATER REASON MAYBE THIS CHILD WOULD BE THE DESTINED ONE TO RETURN THE WORLD TO HOW IT ONCE WAS... AS UNLIKELY AS IT WAS, THE PEOPLE BELIEVED.


SOME ARGUED THAT PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BEST TO END THE POOR THING, THEREBY SPARING HIM FROM THE INEVITABLE MISFORTUNE.

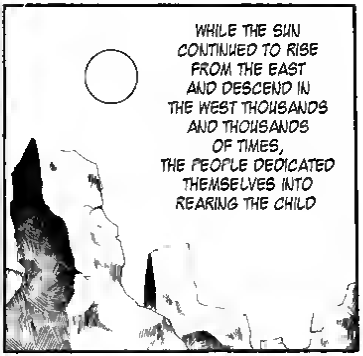

OTHERS ARGUED THAT THEY SHOULD GIVE THE CHILD AS MUCH KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN SOCIETY AND CIVILIZATION, AND THEN PRAY FOR A MIRACLE..!

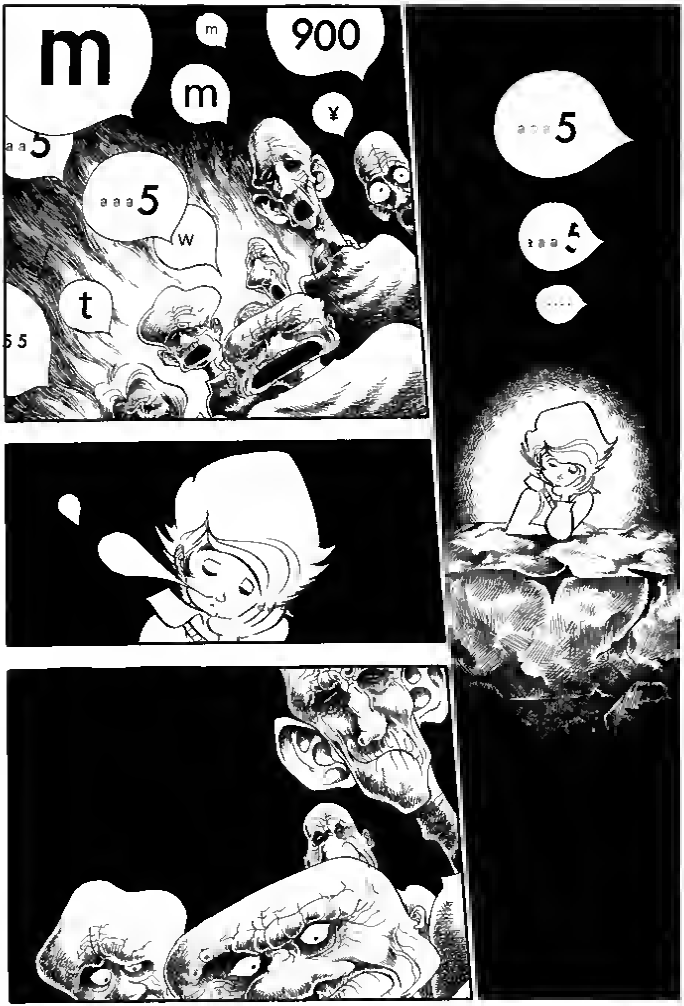






COME NOW, CHILD. IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO INHERIT THE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR ONCE GREAT CIVILIZATION!


WHILE THE SUN CONTINUED TO RISE FROM THE EAST AND DESCEND IN THE WEST THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF TIMES, THE PEOPLE DEDICATED THEMSELVES INTO REARING THE CHILD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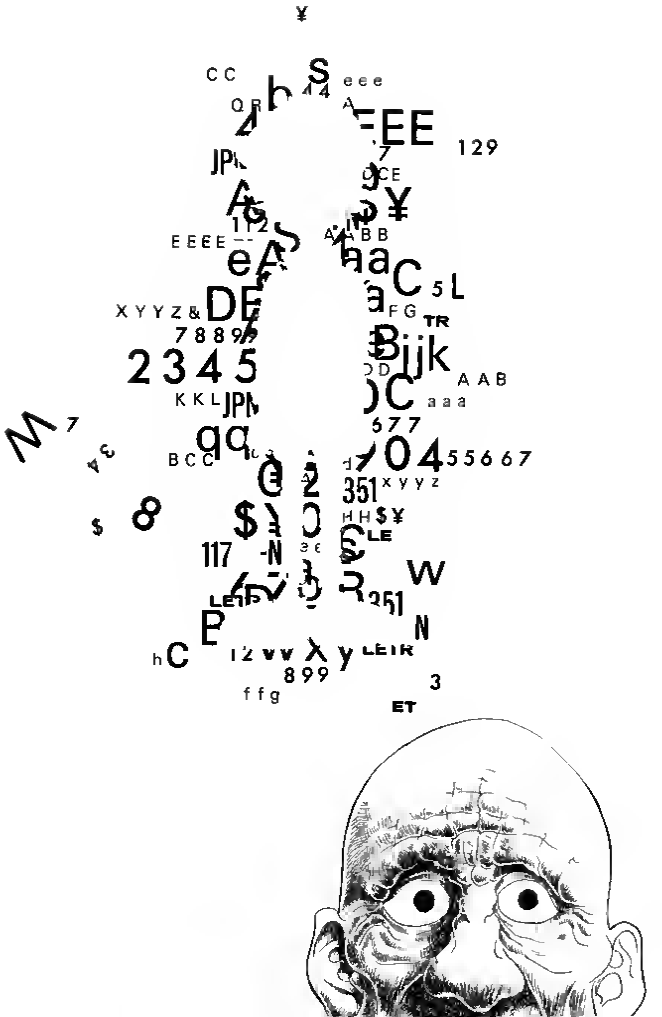
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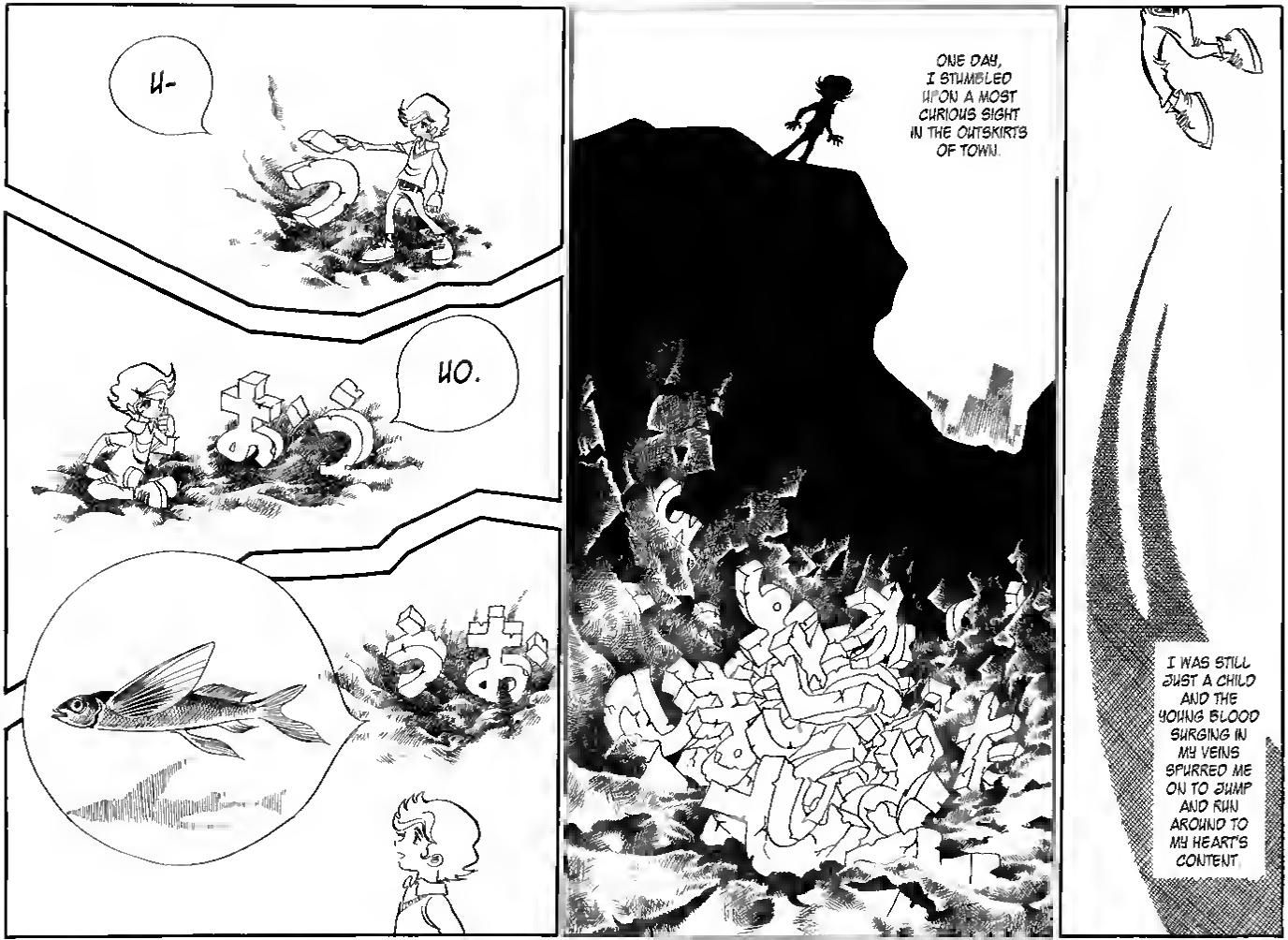
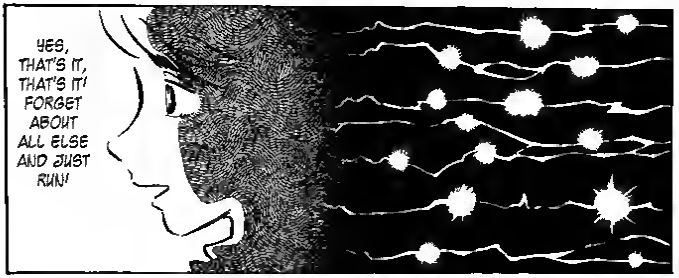
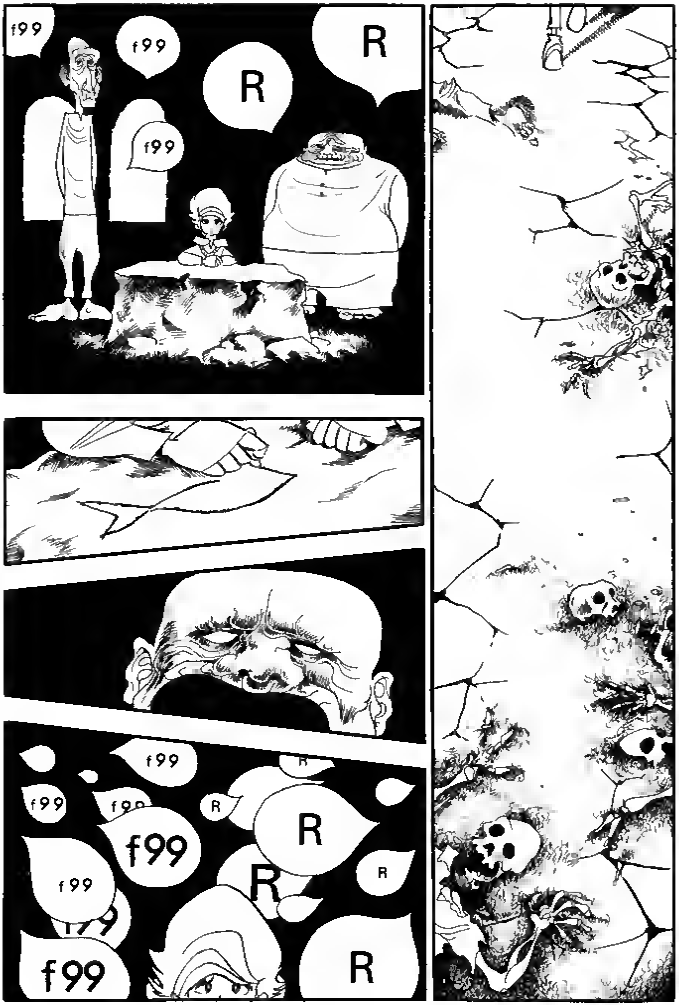
STOP IT!
I'M...
I'M STILL
JUST...


I WAS STILL JUST A CHILD AND THE YOUNG BLOOD SURGING IN MY VEINS SPURRED ME ON TO JUMP AND RUN AROUND TO MY HEART'S CONTENT.
ONE DAY, I STUMBLED UPON A MOST CURIOUS SIGHT IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN.
U-
UO.

TL NOTE: UO IS FISH


YES, THAT'S IT, THAT'S IT! FORGET ABOUT ALL ELSE AND JUST RUN!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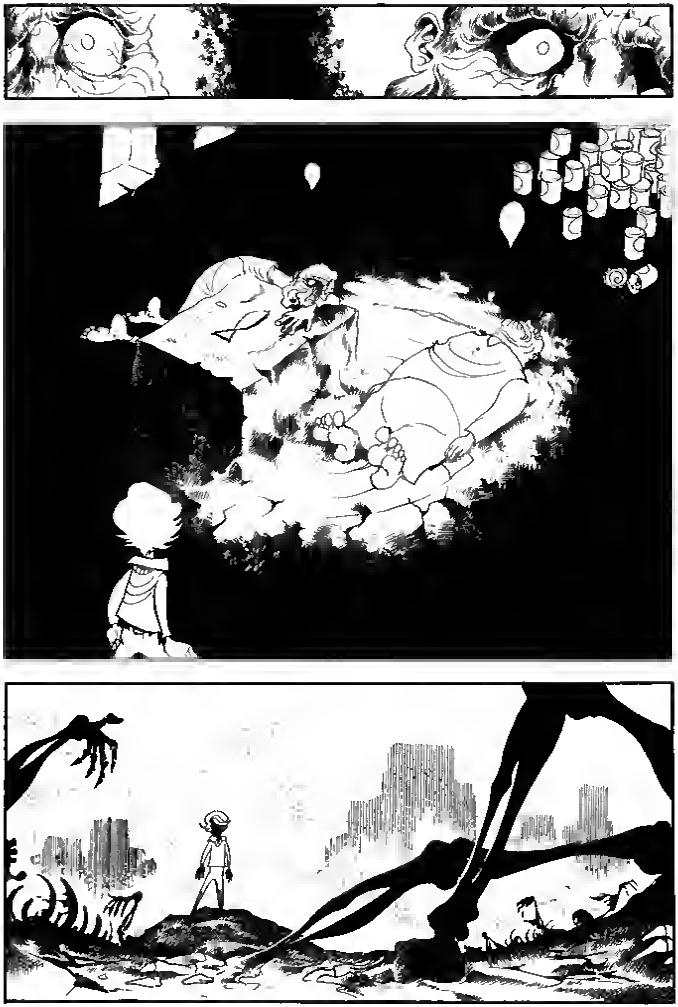
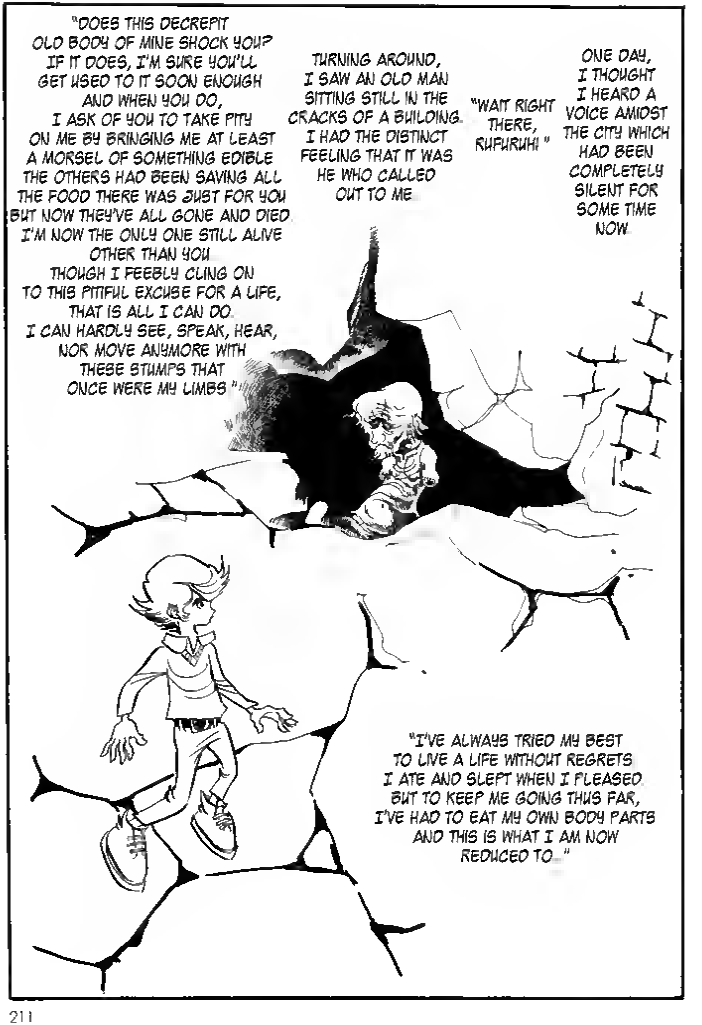


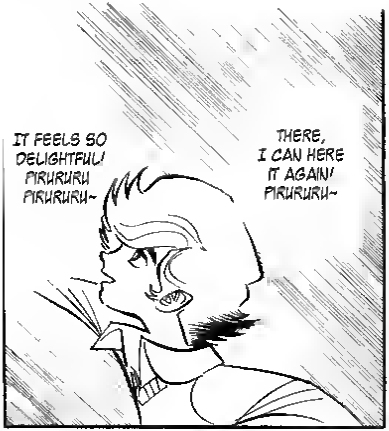

ONE DAY, I THOUGHT I HEARD A VOICE AMIDST THE CITY WHICH HAD BEEN COMPLETELY SILENT FOR SOME TIME NOW.
"WAIT RIGHT THERE, RUFURUHI."
TURNING AROUND, I SAW AN OLD MAN SITTING STILL IN THE CRACKS OF A BUILDING. I HAD THE DISTINCT FEELING THAT IT WAS HE WHO CALLED OUT TO ME.
"DOES THIS DECREPIT OLD BODY OF MINE SHOCK YOU? IF IT DOES, I'M SURE YOU'LL GET USED TO IT SOON ENOUGH AND WHEN YOU DO, I ASK OF YOU TO TAKE PITY ON ME BY BRINGING ME AT LEAST A MORSEL OF SOMETHING EDIBLE. THE OTHERS HAD BEEN SAVING ALL THE FOOD THERE WAS JUST FOR YOU BUT NOW THEY'VE ALL GONE AND DIED. I'M NOW THE ONLY ONE STILL ALIVE OTHER THAN YOU. THOUGH I FEEBLY CLING ON TO THIS PITIFUL EXCUSE FOR A LIFE, THAT IS ALL I CAN DO. I CAN HARDLY SEE, SPEAK, HEAR, NOR MOVE ANYMORE WITH THESE STUMPS THAT ONCE WERE MY LIMBS."
"I'VE ALWAYS TRIED MY BEST TO LIVE A LIFE WITHOUT REGRETS. I ATE AND SLEPT WHEN I PLEASED. BUT TO KEEP ME GOING THIS FAR, I'VE HAD TO EAT MY OWN BODY PARTS AND THIS IS WHAT I AM NOW REDUCED TO."

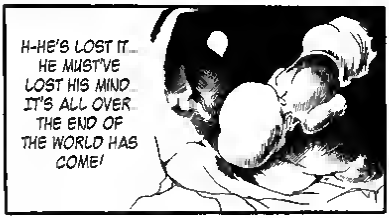
WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT FISH?

I'M AT MY LIMITS AND I CANNOT BEAR IT ANY LONGER. PLEASE BE GENEROUS AS TO GIVE THIS OLD MAN WHATEVER FOOD YOU HAVE. THE OTHERS LEFT YOU WITH A LOT, DID THEY NOT...? I ONLY ASK FOR A TINY PIECE.. I ASSURE YOU I WON'T EVEN LIVE VERY MUCH LONGER...

FISH!? YES... I CAN'T REMEMBER ALL TOO WELL IN MY AGE BUT ITS TASTE... MOST DELECTABLE. HARDLY COMPARABLE TO THE TERRIBLE SYNTHETIC RATIONS WE'VE BEEN FORCED TO EAT.

PLOP
PANT PANT...
I WAS SUDDENLY OVERWHELMED BY GRIEF AND HAD TO RETREAT TO SHED ALL THE TEARS SWELLING UP.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WHAT ABOUT MY FOOD?
SPIN


IT FEELS SO DELIGHTFUL! FIRURURU FIRURURU~
THERE, I CAN HERE IT AGAIN! FIRURURU~


H-HE'S LOST IT... HE MUST'VE LOST HIS MIND... IT'S ALL OVER THE END OF THE WORLD HAS COME!

COLLAPSE...

RUN! RUN!
O' HEART, BEAT AS FAST AS THE DRUMS TO CARRY ME FORWARD!

I WAS UNNERVED BY THE ODD SOUND THAT SEEMED TO EMANATE FROM MY OWN BODY I WONDER IF THIS HAPPENED FOR THE OTHERS EITHER WAY, I'M SURE I WOULD HEAR IT AGAIN

I'M SURE THE FISH ARE
SPARKLING BRIGHTLY
WHILE FLYING
ACROSS THE SKIES,
SEAS, MOUNTAINS,
LAKES, FORESTS,
FIELDS AND VALLEYS...
PIRURURU PIRURURU
PIRURURU PIRURURU~

AS ALWAYS
PIRURURU
PIRURURU~

AND SO I'LL
ANSWER
RIGHT BACK
PIRURURU
PIRURURU~

IT MUST BE
THE FISH THAT
SPUR ME
ON TO SING!
IT MUST BE
THEY WHO
MAKE ME
WANT TO RUN,
IT HAS TO BE.

YES,
I CAN SEE
A FOREST
STRETCHING
OUT
ENDLESSLY
BEFORE ME
WHEN I SHUT
MY EYES
PIRURURU
PIRURURU~

魚の少年■完

初出一覧

色えんぴつ	季刊コミックアゲイン No.4	1985年5月
花火	季刊コミックアゲイン No.2	1984年11月
金盞花(時知らず)	季刊コミックアゲイン No.1	1984年8月
あるこわある	ぱふ	1980年11月
小春日和	漫画族オリジナル	1981年3月
恋人	ペケ	1978年11月
冬の月	漫金超 No.3	1981年6月
灯	メビウス No.2	1982年11月
綺縫綾縁	高二コース	1973年～1974年
いちご都市	COM	1971年8月
魚の少年	希望の友	1971年3月

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